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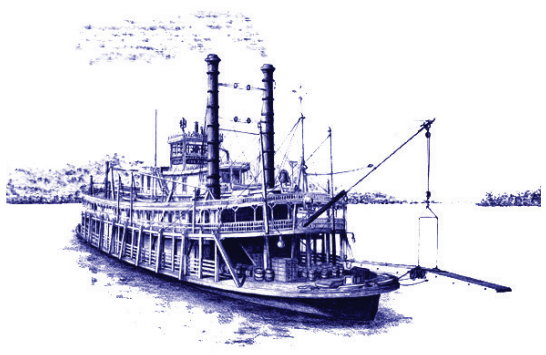


HANOVER'S LYNN HALL RETIRING ***PAGE B1***

THE MADISON COURIER

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2023 *Serving the Courier area since 1837* **NEWSSTAND • $1.25**

Bob Demaree

Work is underway in Madison on development of the Francis Costigan Park at the southeast corner of Poplar and First streets, and a new parking lot along Vaughn Drive between Poplar Street and Central Avenue. The park will include plazas honoring architect Francis Costigan and abolitionist George DeBaptiste while recognizing Madison's industrial heritage on the riverfront and providing a pollinator habitat. With the addition of a sidewalk between the park and the parking lot, there will also be improved access to Bicentennial Park.

Details provided on new Francis Costigan Park

Riverfront park to recognize architect, abolitionist, city's early industry

BY BOB DEMAREE

New life is coming to a lot that has sat dormant and overgrown for decades at the southeast corner of Poplar and First streets as the city begins reshaping the site into Madison's newest public park.

At Tuesday's Madison City Council meeting, unanimous approval was given to officially naming the parcel of land as "Francis Costigan Park" after the Indiana architect known primarily for his iconic work in Madison and Indianapolis.

Funding to convert the land into a public park is coming from Destination Madison dollars that the city received from Our Southern Indiana Regional Development Authority through the Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative (READI), along with other grants. The project also involves developing a new parking lot across from Lamplighter Park to serve that and neaby Bicentennial Park. The $880,000 project also includes a $175,000 contribution from the Riverfront Development Commission.

The new park encompasses land east of Poplar Street across from the Shrewsbury-Windle House that was transferred to the city through an agreement with the Historic Madison Foundation Inc. The land has roots in Madison's industrial past, serving as the site of a planing mill in the 1800s and a button factory in the early 1900s. Later, it became a boat factory, owned by Birl Hill, surviving a fire in 1946 before succumbing to another fire in 1953 that destroyed the building.

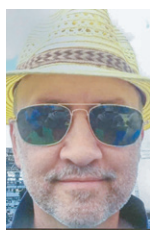
SEE **PARK/PAGE A2**

Charlie Rohlfing

Guitar fine tuner Scott Curlin, from left, artist Mariella Axline and musician Matt Red Moore with the guitar Axline hand-carved and Curlin fine-tuned prior to Moore's performance recently at Red Bike Hall. Axline is using her artistic talents and skill to hand-carve the bodies of electric guitars, turning them into elaborate and beautiful works of art.

Axline making a name hand carving axes

If you read Charlie's Beat about Scott Curlin a couple of weeks ago, you know that the term "axe" in the music world refers to a guitar. Madison resident Mariella Axline is developing a highly artistic and very niche skill, hand carving the bodies of electric guitars, turning them into elaborate and beautiful works of art.



CHARLIE **ROHLFING**
CHARLIE'S BEAT

Mariella and her husband Scott live on Third Street in downtown Madison, and are part of what I like to call the "reverse diaspora" of our town, people who used to be spread all over the globe but are finding their way to our little corner of Indiana to join our enjoyable quality of life.

"We were living in Pendleton, Indiana," relates Mariella, "but then through our friends Mark and Julie Perkins, they have a place up in Vevay, we discovered the town of Madison. It was pretty much love at first sight.

SEE **AXES/PAGE A2**

Grote asks Madison to modify abatement for LED expansion

$21 million line to employ 15 workers

BY BOB DEMAREE

With plans by Grote Industries to expand its LED headlamp manufacturing operations, a resolution was unanimously approved by Madison City Council at its meeting Tuesday that modifies the terms of a previously declared economic revitalization area for determining abatements.

Emily McKinney, associate director of economic development, said there is an opportunity for Grote to grow and expand its business through local tax incentives while working through additional tax incentives with the State of Indiana.

"We are very thankful they are choosing Madison to reinvest in their LED headlamp operations," said McKinney, noting the expansion will bring an estimated 15 new jobs with a $25 hourly wage.

"This resolution is the first step for the tax abatement by declaring an economic revitalization area," she said, adding that representatives from Grote Industries will attend the next City Council meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 10, to present details about their investment plans.

The January meeting will also include a hearing on a tax abatement resolution and a hearing a on waiver resolution as well as consideration on whether to adopt those resolutions and consideration on adopting a resolution on the economic development agreement.

Madison Mayor Bob Courtney said an executive session meeting will be called with City Council prior to the regular Jan. 10 meeting to discuss the terms of the economic development agreement.

Courtney said the executive session "will have a lot of substance in it with regards to what we are bargaining for in exchange for the 10-year abatement," which he noted is for an abatement on taxes due on personal property the company will acquire as part of the new investment.

"It doesn't affect any prior purchases of personal property. It does not affect the land or the real estate that Grote has. We're just isolating this to just one new investment opportunity," Courtney said, adding that no past agreement are being modified. "It's just for these new jobs, these new salaries and this new headlamp line."

A SB-1 statement of benefits personal property form, signed by Brian Blanton, Grote's chief financial officer, provided the estimated cost and value of the Grote's proposed project totaling $21 million for the new manufacturing equipment and new logistical distribution equipment to be purchased. "That actually could rise," said Courtney. "We'll hear more from representatives of Grote (at the next meeting) in terms of the scaling of this particular opportunity."

SEE **GROTE/PAGE A8**

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS, SCHEDULES

Several closings have been announced in conjunction with the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

- The Jefferson County Courthouse and Madison City Hall will be closed today through Monday, Dec. 25 while Hanover Town Hall will be closed Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 25-26.
- Madison offices, including the water office, are included in the closure. City offices will re-open for regular business hours, Tuesday, Dec. 26. The transfer station will be closed today, Saturday, Dec. 23, and Monday, Dec. 25 but re-open on Tuesday, Dec. 26, for regular business hours. Trash in Madison will be delayed one day during the week of Dec. 25-29.
- County trash will not run on Monday, Dec. 25. The schedule for the remainder of the week will be Tuesday, Dec. 26, at Chelsea; Wednesday, Dec. 27, at Deputy; Thursday, Dec. 28, at Dupont; Friday, Dec. 29, at Rykers Ridge; and Saturday, Dec. 30, at Canaan and Brooksburg.
- Jefferson County, Madison and Hanover offices will also be closed for the New Year's holiday on Monday, Jan. 1 — including the Madison Transfer Station — and Madison Trash pickup also will be delayed one day that week.

57 High 43 Low
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Norma Baxter
Iyla Briner
Leland Briner
Naomi Briner
Carol Copeland
Laura Gerber
Stephen Miller
Dorothy Overpeck
Frederick Robinson
Billy Skirvin

8 51633 00100 7

NEWS OF RECORD

JEFFERSON COUNTY JAIL

LODGINGS

December 18, 2023

Melinda J. Goldsmith, 43, Lexington, Indiana, for Theft, a Class A misdemeanor and on a 15-day hold. Bond $1,000 cash.

David Bradley Parks, 37, Madison to hold on an warrant from Scott County, Indiana (Level 5 felony dealing in narcotics). No bond.

December 19, 2023

Ashley Renee Bouchey, 29, New Albany, Indiana, on a Jefferson County arrest warrant, Bond $2,000 cash.

Cheryl Lorayne Howard, 45, Madison, for Obstruction of Justice, a Class B misdemeanor, No bond.

Ana L. Mata Gamboa, 40, no address, for Neglect of a Dependent, a Level 6 felony. No bond.

Saundra Jean Wynn, 48, Hanover, for Theft and Criminal Trespass, both Class a misdemeanors. No bond.

December 20, 2023

Joshua B. Clowers, 40, Madison, on a parole hold warrant. No bond.

Kenneth Glenn Ledbetter, 40, Madison, for Possession of Methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony; and Disorderly Conduct and

Public Intoxication by Alcohol/Drugs, both Class B misdemeanors. Bond $1,00 cash.

December 21, 2023

Robert Mark Keith, 62, Hanover, on a Jefferson County warrant for failure to appear (public intoxication). Bond $500 cash.

Tausha Danyell Thomas, 42, Madison, on a Jefferson County arrest warrant for failure to appear (felony narcotic charge). Bond $5,000 cash.

Hannah Marie Tice, 36, North Vernon, Indiana, on a court-ordered sentencing for probation violation. No bond.

JEFFERSON COUNTY SUPERIOR & CIRCUIT COURT

SENTENCINGS

December 18, 2023

Blake Xavier Downey, 30, Madison, for Theft-2 Counts, both Class A misdemeanors. Sentenced to zero days jail plus $334 in fees and court costs.

Tammy Sue Vinson, 41, Milan, Indiana, for Possession of Marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor. Sentenced to zero days jail plus $389 in fees and court costs.

Sara Ramirez-Arteaga, 37, Madison, for Operating Without a Valid License, a Class C misdemeanor. Sentenced to 60 days jail, all suspended to 180 days non-reporting probation plus $189.50 in fees and court costs.

Jazmin N. Nonato, 39, Madison, for Operating Without a Valid License, a Class C misdemeanor. Sentenced to 60 days jail, all suspended to 180 days non-reporting probation plus $189.50 in fees and court costs.

Anderina Gamardo Ortiz, 23, Madison, for Operating Without a Valid License, a Class C misdemeanor. Sentenced to zero days jail plus $189.50 in fees and court costs.

Valerie L. Lilly, 55, Hanover, for Theft, a Class A misdemeanor. Sentenced to 180 days jail, all suspended to non-reporting probation plus $289 in fees and court costs.

Mary Ann Eldridge, 53, Dillsboro, Indiana, for Driving While Suspended, a Class A misdemeanor. Sentenced to 365 days jail, all suspended to supervised probation plus $289.50 in fees and court costs.

Avery Lewis Saunders, 20, Ladoga, Indiana, to an amended charge of Theft, a Class A misdemeanor as lesser included offense. Sentenced to 180 days jail, all suspended to non-reporting probation plus $189 in fees and court costs and $776.64 restitution to Walmart.

December 19, 2023

Michael Ray Stakelin, 55, Madison, to an amended charge of Resisting Law Enforcement, a Class A misdemeanor, and violation of probation. Sentenced to zero days jail plus $239 in fees and court costs with 326 days probation revoked with credit for 326 days served.

Jacob A. Hendrix, 36, Madison, to an amended charge of Theft, a Class A Misdemeanor. Sentenced to 80 days jail, served, plus $239 in fees and court costs.

Kevin Lee Duke, 32, Madison, to an amended charge of Operating While Intoxicated Causing Serious Bodily Injury, a Level 5 felony. Sentenced to 1,460 days at Indiana Department of Correction, fully executed, with credit for 98 days served plus $489.50 in fees and court costs and restitution to be determined.

Jacob A. Hendrix, 36, Madison, to an amended charge of Possession of Methamphetamine, a Level 5 felony and Operating While Intoxicated, a Class C misdemeanor Sentenced to 1,095 days at Indiana Department of Correction on the felony concurrent to 30 days on the misdemeanor, all suspended to supervised probation plus $1089.50 in fees and court costs.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

JEFFERSON COUNTY

December 18, 2023

Mark A. Elkins to Jeffrey Cleon Know LLC, 1007 Park Avenue, Madison.

Martin E. Retzner and Barbara M. Retzner to Martin E. Retzner and Barabara M. Retzner (living trust) and Martin E. Retzner and Barabara M. Retzner (trustees) and Martin E. Retzner and Barabara M. Retzner (life estate), 2 acres at 4590 South Hanover Saluda Road, Hanover.

Mark E. Nay, Auditor of the County of Jefferson Indiana Heather Huff, Jefferson County Indiana Auditor Heather Huff to Wiper Corporation, 2 acres at 173 South Brooksburg Main Street, Madison ($15,000).

Larry D. Andres, Auditor of the County of Jefferson Indiana Heather Huff, Jefferson County Indiana Auditor Heather Huff and Mary Andres to Wiper Corporation, 10553 North Reynolds Road, Dupont ($25,000).

December 18, 2023

Edith June Heath to Jeffrey G. Phagan, approximately 1.6 acres at 2496 East Cross Road, Madison.

Richard Johnson, Barbara Ann Johnson (deceased) and Donald O. Johnson (deceased) to Richard Johnson, Allison M. Dressler and Summer Brooke Johnson, 913 East 400 North, Madison.

Dana C. Lankhorst and Janet E. Lankhorst to Dana and Janet Lankhorst Family Living Trust, two parcels totaling approximately 0.8 acres at 1807 East Key Circle, Madison.

Firefighters respond to 3 fires

BY THE COURIER STAFF

A day after responding to a house fire that involved the investigation of four deaths, three more fires on Friday, Dec. 15 made for another busy day for Madison Township and Rykers Ridge fire deparments.

On Friday morning, the volunteer departments responded to a pole barn fire in the 3100 block of North Graham Road. After that was extingished, firefighters returned to the station and received a report of a hillside that was on fire with flames approaching a house in the 3000 block of East State Road 56.

The departments quickly responded and that fire was contained before it reached the home.

Later on Friday, a caller spotted a grass fire just shortly after it began on the 300 block of Virginia Avenue and the firefighters were once again back in service. The fire managed to reach the house and melt some of the siding, but firefighters stopped the blaze there and saved the house from structural damage.

PARK

FROM **PAGE A1**

After the fire, with the land located across the street from the Shrewsbury-Windle House, the property was purchased by HMI founder John T. Windle and his wife, Ann. John Windle died in 1987, and prior to the death of Ann Windle in 2009, the deed was transferred to the Historic Madison Foundation.

"We want to say thank you to Historic Madison Inc. for their donation of the property and to the Windles for purchasing the property and allowing it to be preserved as an open space," said Emily McKinney, associate director of economic development for the city.

Costigan, a native of Washington D.C., studied to be a builder and architect in Philadelphia and Baltimore then moved to Madison in the summer of 1837. At the time of Costigan's arrival, Madison was a booming Ohio River port. Costigan produced a significant body of Greek Revival residential work in Madison. In addition to his own house at 408 West Third Street, he also designed the J.F.D. Lanier Mansion and the Shrewsbury-Windle House.

As commerce began to shift away from the waterways to new railroad corridors in the 1850s, Costigan found a booming market for his work in Indianapolis. He was architect on several buildings in Indianapolis but only one that is still standing — the Andrew Wallace Residence at 601 Fletcher Avenue, constructed in 1866 after his 1865 death. "Many of the mansions were torn down for the growth of the urban city north and the Indiana World War Memorial Plaza," said McKinney.

Madison Mayor Bob Courtney said the park will also be home to a bronze bust of George DeBaptiste, who worked with the underground railroad during his time in Madison.

"This will be very functional for the Historic Madison campus as well as bring a needed design to Vaughn Drive and connection to Bicentennial Park," said Courtney.

Tony Steinhardt III, the city's director of economic development, said the park will include a plaza with information about Francis Costigan on the western edge of the park that will face Poplar Street towards the Shrewsbury-Windle House and the DeBaptiste plaza on the southern edge of the park facing towards the Ohio River.

There will also be recognition of Madison's industrial past on the riverfront, highlighting the industrial structure that was once there with a pollinator garden following along the edges of the foundation where the factory building once existed.

"There will be an interpretative sign that explains the industrial history of the riverfront," said Steinhardt. With the park including the foundation of the building that burned, Steinhardt said it will have "remnants of one of the many industrial buildings that were along our riverfront."

He said there will also "be educational opportunities as it relates to how the pollinator garden works, and the importance" with the park also including information about the garden.

Pollinator habitat is described by the United State Department of Agriculture as beautifying space, increasing native biodiversity, increasing pollination services and biological control of "pest" insects while providing community engagement and learning opportunities. Steinhardt said benefits of the pollinator garden are that it conserves water and requires less maintenance, citing that there are parts of the park that will only need to be mowed three or four times a year.

There will be a crushed stone path through the park that goes from the Costigan Plaza through the pollinator garden and the area of the building foundation to the DeBaptiste Plaza, leading also to a sidewalk that will go between the parking lot and the park that extends from Poplar Street to Central Avenue, providing access to Bicentennial Park. There's also a sidewalk on Poplar Street that connects to the parking lot.

Steinhardt said the historical stone gutters along Poplar Street will also be preserved and repaired, along with maintaining the rock wall that faces Poplar Street that he said will be cleaned.

Steinhardt anticipates work on Costigan Park and the new parking lot will be completed prior to the Madison Regatta, if not earlier.

"We're very proud of how this is shaping up," said Courtney. "It's already under construction and it's fitting that this new park is named after one of Madison's best known architects."

AXES

FROM **PAGE A1**

"We decided to start coming down here on weekends, but then we basically never left. It's been a great decision, we've made lots of friends, and the art and music scene here is amazing. We live less than a block from the Red Bike and walk to a lot of the shows.

"I've always been an artist, working with paint and jewelry design, plus metal and epoxy sculpture. I'm also a guitarist. I discovered there are companies that offer all the component parts to build your own electric guitar from scratch. You can buy the body, the neck, the pickups and switches, everything you need. You can build copies of a Fender Stratocaster or a Gibson Les Paul or basically any guitar.

"So I bought the parts to build a Strat, and I got out my carving chisels, and I went to town on the body of the guitar, sculpting a whole landscape of roses and leaves. My neighbor Jerome Vernon, who is a master woodworker, helped me with the staining and finishing. And I thought it turned out really great!

"I showed it to Jimmy Davis and he said, I wouldn't mind having a carved Telecaster, which is another iconic Fender model. Well, that was all the encouragement I needed. I acquired the parts and dove in on that guitar body, this time with an elaborate engraved style, reminiscent of leather tooling or engraving on a fine gun. Jimmy loved it and bought it right away.

"I should point out at this point, that putting guitar parts together in kit form does not ensure a well playing instrument. There are lots of fine tuning adjustments that need to be made to ensure proper neck angle and string height and lots of other variables. So after I get the parts carved and finished, I hand them off to Scott Curlin at The fAxetory Music Company up in Vevay. He makes them play and sound great.

"So after the Jimmy Davis Tele I asked Matt Red Moore what type of dream guitar he might like. He didn't commit to buying one, but he said it would be a Gibson Les Paul if he was just dreaming. So I bought the raw parts and got to carving on that one. I finished it just in time for the recent show at Red Bicycle Hall, where Matt was opening for Joe Clark. He played the new guitar and really liked it.

"And I have to say, the 100 or so hours of carving I put in for each guitar is very satisfying, in an artistic sense. But there is nothing like the feeling you get when you see the instrument that you created, up there on stage, being played and enjoyed by a talented musician. It is so much better than a painting on a wall!"

Charlie Rohlfing is a retired advertising man and partner in The Red Bicycle Hall music venue. Look for his distinctive fedora bobbing above the crowd, anywhere live local music is happening.

THIS WEEK IN MUSIC

FRIDAY, DEC. 22

- **Rivertown Grill -** Smokin' Jokers
- **The Central -** The Mood
- **The Drake -** Jimmy Davis
- **VFW -** L&L Karaoke

SATURDAY, DEC. 23

- **Rivertown Grill -** Ragtop Deluxe
- **Off Broadway Taproom -** Jordan Wilson Coalition
- **The Drake -** Joe, Deano, Danny & Kerry

NEW YEARS EVE, DEC. 31

- **Clifty Inn -** Rusty Bladen
- **Cotton Mill Fairfield -** The Rumors
- **Rivertown Grill -** L&L Karaoke

THE MADISON COURIER

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Noon Monday for Thursday issue
Noon Thursday for Saturday issue

VOL. 223 • ISSUE NO. 110

BIRTHDAYS

Editor's Note: Got a birthday or anniversary coming up? Send name, date and number of years (optional) to zelda@madisoncourier.com or call 812-265-3641. Please leave your name and phone number in case we have follow-up questions.

DEC. 22
Jeff Ayler

DEC. 23
Luanne McCammon

DEC. 26
Roger Fuhrman

DEC. 27
Rusty Bladen
Terry King

DEC. 28
Betsey Vonderheide

JAN. 1
Brad Ferguson

JAN. 3
Amy Slayden Anderson

WEATHER

Sunrise: 7:55 a.m.
Sunset: 5:25 p.m.
Temperature: High 44, Low 31, Mean 37.5, Deficit 2.6
Precipitation since last published: .01
Precipitation, December 2023: 1.25
Precipitation, 2023: 45.02
Barometer: 30.36, Falling
River Level at Clifty Creek: 422.03, Rising
Forecast: Saturday: Showers High 54/Low 45; Sunday (Christmas Eve): Partly cloudy High 63/Low 46; Monday (Christmas Day): Rain High 58/Low 49; Tuesday: Showers High 55/Low 39.

LOTTERIES

INDIANA
Hoosier Lotto: 1-13-26-30-36-41 (12/20). Next Estimated Jackpot: $1.6 million. Next Drawing (12/23).
Cash Five: 13-22-25-32-34 (12/20)
Cash 4 Life: 15-26-28-34-37 CB: 1 (12/20)
Lucky For Life: 1-11-19-34-40 LB: 11 (12/20)
MEGAMILLIONS: 17-26-50-58-61 MB: 11, MP x3 (12/19). Next Jackpot: $57 million. Next Drawing (12/22)
POWERBALL: 27-35-41-56-60 PB: 16, PP 2 (12/20). Next Estimated Jackpot: $620 million. Next Drawing (12/23)
POWERBALL DOUBLE PLAY: 22-25-28-30-53 PB: 3 (12/20). Next Estimated Jackpot: Up to $10 million. Next Drawing (12/23)

KENTUCKY
Cash Ball: 14-16-31-35 CB 17 (12/20)
Kentucky 5 Extra: 1-3-22-28-32 (12/20)

Tuba Carols

Bob Demaree

Director Bill Kindle (left) leads the "Tuba Carols" as the local brass ensemble performed outdoors at the Broadway Fountain on Saturday, Dec. 16.

Outdoor performance draws crowd

Bob Demaree

Tuba Caroler Mitchell Adams, of Madison, was in the holiday spirit in both dress and attitude while performing outdoors with the Tuba Carolers brass ensemble on Saturday, Dec. 16 at the Broadway Fountain in Madison

Bob Demaree

Leif Estes (right) was decked out for the holidays — both his tuba and himself — while performing with fellow Tuba Carolers Scott Ross(left) of Louisville and Shelby Ross (center) of Trimble County.

Filing begins for 2024 elections Jan. 10

BY BOB DEMAREE

The filing period for 2024 elections is less than three weeks away and a number of county races are on that ballot as well as national, state and school board races. Filing for county offices for the May 2024 primary begins on Wednesday, Jan. 10, and continues through noon on Friday, Feb. 9 for the Tuesday, May 7, primary.

School board elections will also be on the Tuesday, Nov. 5, general election. Filing for those positions for both Madison and Southwestern schools will be earlier than in the past, beginning Tuesday, May 21, and ending Thursday, June 20, at noon. In 2022, school board filings began in late July and ended in August.

Jefferson County offices to be contested in 2024 include Circuit Court Judge, Recorder, Treasurer, Surveyor, Coroner, County Commissioner Lower District, County Commissioner Middle District, and the three At-Large County Council seats.

Incumbents currently serving in those offices are Circuit Judge D.J. Mote, Republican, first elected in 2018, one term; Recorder Molly O'Connor, Democrat, first elected in 2016, two terms; Treasurer Meghan Crowley Hoskins, elected in Republican caucus, replacing retiring incumbent Melinda Klopp in October of 2022; Surveyor Mike Pittman, Republican, first elected in 2020, one term; Coroner Rodney Nay, Democrat, first elected in 2016, two terms; Commissioner Lower District David Bramer, Republican, first elected in 2016, two terms; Commissioner Middle District Bobby Little, Republican, first elected in 2012, three terms.

The three incumbent At-Large County Council members are Pam Crozier and Heather Foy, both Republican, first elected in 2016, two terms; and Gary Copeland, Republican, first elected in 2020, one term.

Also on the ballot in 2024 are President of the United States, U.S. Senator, Indiana Governor, Indiana Attorney General, State Representative and U.S. Representative.

For President, the incumbent is Joe Biden, Democrat, elected in 2020. With each state having two U.S. Senators, the Indiana seat up for election is the one currently held by Mike Braun, Republican, who has already announced he won't seek reelection, but instead is running for Governor.

Eric Holcomb, Republican, is Indiana's incumbent Governor but due to serving the limit of two terms, he cannot seek reelection. Todd Rokita, Republican, first elected in 2020, is the incumbent Indiana Attorney General. Meanwhile, Erin Houchin, Republican, first elected in 2022, is the incumbent U.S. Representative for the 9th Congressional District in which both Jefferson and Switzerland counties are a part.

There are three State Representative districts that serve Jefferson County. District 67 encompasses the largest part of the county with seven of the county's 10 townships, represented by Alex Zimmerman, an attorney from North Vernon, elected in Republican caucus in July of this year following the resignation of Randy Frye.

District 66 includes Saluda and Hanover townships in Jefferson County, represented by Zach Payne, Republican, first elected in 2020 now serving in his second term. District 67 includes Milton Township in Jefferson County, represented by Randy Lyness, Republican, initially elected by Republican caucus following the resignation of Jud McMillin in September of 2015. District 67 also includes all of Switzerland County.

VMI encouraged by results of satellite, trolley test run

BY BOB DEMAREE

There are details that still need to be resolved but chances are good that Visit Madison Inc. will work towards a more permanent arrangement to operate a satellite visitor center at the Madison Main Street Comfort Station and regular trolley services after successful trial runs this fall.

Andrew Forrester, VMI executive director, updated Jefferson County Board of Tourism at its meeting Monday. "Overall, they were very positive. I appreciate the board of tourism's support of those initiatives to get the feedback and see what's positive," he said.

In August, JCBT provided funding for the trial runs that were blended into one general $25,000 appropriation to VMI that also provided funding to support marketing for this year's Night Before Christmas Candlelight Tour of Homes. Overall, VMI divided those with $11,000 for the home tour, $4,500 for the satellite visitor center and $9,500 for the trolley.

The satellite visitor center at the Main Street Comfort Station operated from Oct. 7 to Dec. 3. The trolley ran from Nov. 10-26.

Forrester said there were 7,822 people who went through the Main Street Comfort Station when the satellite visitor center was open. "That's a lot of people," he noted. "We heard from residents and businesses downtown how much they appreciated our presence," he said. "Many residents who walk downtown on a regular basis felt safer and more secure knowing there was a presence" there where there are restrooms available for public use. "Visitors who had been to Madison before expressed appreciation that we were staffing it so they could ask questions. And we were able to promote our historic sites, restaurants, and businesses by asking people simple questions about their interests."

Overall, the satellite visitor center was open 46 days including 36 days consecutive days and on weekend the last three weeks.

With $40,800 that JCBT appropriated for Comfort Station improvements earlier this year, there are plans to do that work over the winter to put the restrooms in better condition while also better developing the space for the permanent presence of the satellite visitor center.

"I hope to make some other decisions in conjunction with my board and the city as we move into 2024, and they do some more renovations about a more permanent presence there," said Forrester. After that, he anticipates asking JCBT for funding to cover staffing the satellite visitor center next year.

Forrester said one factor that hampered the trolley trial was that it happened in November when "we saw a big dropoff in the Comfort Station numbers as far as people who were in town." As the weather got colder, there were fewer visitors in Jefferson County.

The trolley provided free hop-on, hop-off trolley rides with two loop routes. "The loop routes were not as popular as I thought they might be," said Forrester. "Some of that I would attribute to we had some bad weather. It was cold, it was rainy, people weren't out and about, so, that was less popular."

With $9,500 earmarked for the trolley, Forrester said the income was $2,185.58. "It was not a venture that we made money," he said, noting "it took dollars and cents from the Board of Tourism" to be able to run the trolley. All of the deficit came from the "loop routes" that cost more to operate while bringing in nothing because they were free.

However, he said the paid guided trolley tours proved successful with those runs actually operating at a slight profit. "We had awesome uptake on the paid tours," he said. "And it was visitors and residents alike. It was residents that wanted to learn about their community. It was residents that had family in town. They were visiting so they brought family along on the trolley tour. It was overall another very positive experience."

He noted the satellite visitor center will always need financial support to provide that service at the Comfort Station but he envisions that the trolley service might eventually be developed to support itself. "There are ways that I think trolley has potential to break even and maybe make a little money but it's going to take somebody doing that full-time," Forrester said, as well as developing a strategy that includes public paid trolley tours and private rentals. Forrester said more permanent usage of the trolley service might also require consideration of investment in one or two new trolleys, along with deciding whether VMI owns/operates the service or contracts it out — all that will be considered as he works with the VMI board of directors and JCBT to determine the future of the trolley service.

In other business:

• Forrester said the number Experience Madison guides to be printed for 2024 will be 60,000, an increase of 5,000 over what was printed this year. JCBT president Trevor Crafton questioned the increase, noting in the past it had been recommended to put a greater emphasis on digital rather than print.

Forrester said there continues to be a great demand for the print visitor guide. "We can't keep them stocked in the hotels," he said, adding that the guides are utilized as "promotional pieces out of market. We take them to the trade shows, we put them in the rest stops, use them in direct mail. They are a pretty piece, they have lots of information, and are kind of the all and one." But because businesses are "opening and closing all the time," he said it's challenging to keep the print guide updated. With the new guides coming out in the spring "by June, something's wrong. So, we're still having that conversation all the time. We still see the need for them. There's still a lot of demand" and it remains "a valuable piece."

• With it being JCBT's last meeting of the year, Crafton commended the work of the board this year. "I think we did a lot of good in 2023. I think we moved the needle. I really do. We have things we have to adjust, and we're going to have to get more aggressive in 2024, yes." He hopes the board can build on what was accomplished in 2023. "I was really proud to be on this board."

• Ron Bateman, finishing a two-year term, made final comments as he goes off JCBT at the end of the year. "When I was first asked about this board, I said no five times because" he had a sense that it was "a battlefield, but it's been great. I have a lot of new friends and very few enemies." He encouraged the board to "not abdicate your responsibility" to Jefferson County tourism and with money coming in through the innkeepers tax, "there's a lot money here and you can do a lot good. You're doing a good job, don't let up."

• Board member Jim Bartlett asked for consideration of a "more formal scoring process for grant funding applications. Right now, our decisions have been very judgment call" without a "solid foundation for determining the value of the application." He said he doesn't think there's time to develop a scoring process prior to the first grant cycle next year but "I think we need to work in that direction as we get toward the second cycle."

• Forrester announced that while the final numbers have not been tallied for the Night Before Christmas Candlelight Tour of Homes, that it was definitely a success with 3,322 tickets sold this year — an increase from last year 3,220 total — even though there was a $10 increase in ticket prices.

Join Our Christmas Club
Our Christmas Club account provides an excellent way to budget your money throughout the year so it's easier on you when December gets here. Club accounts are available in weekly installments of $5.00, $10.00 and $20.00.
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Wishing you a very
MERRY CHRISTMAS
From your friends at Kasper Insurance
May we all find love, joy and peace during this holiday season.
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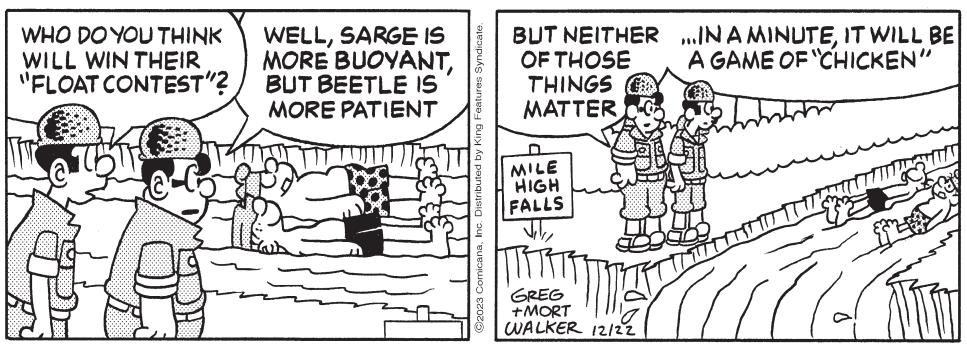
BEETLE BAILEY


WHO DO YOU THINK WILL WIN THEIR "FLOAT CONTEST"?
WELL, SARGE IS MORE BUOYANT, BUT BEETLE IS MORE PATIENT
BUT NEITHER OF THOSE THINGS MATTER
...IN A MINUTE, IT WILL BE A GAME OF "CHICKEN"
MILE HIGH FALLS
GREG + MORT WALKER 12/22
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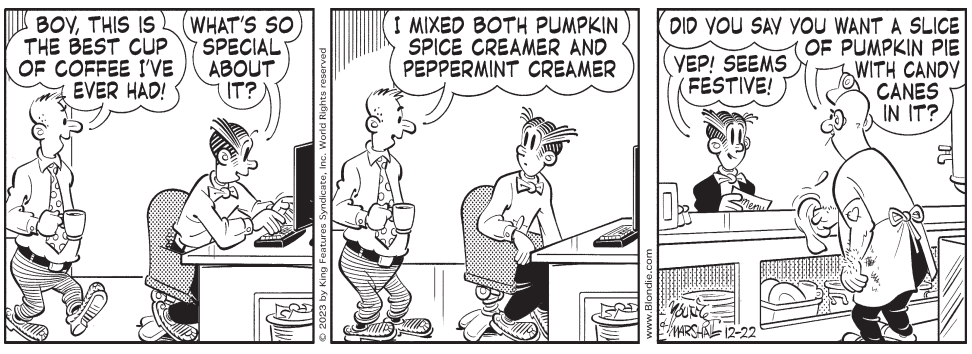
BLONDIE


BOY, THIS IS THE BEST CUP OF COFFEE I'VE EVER HAD!
WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT IT?
I MIXED BOTH PUMPKIN SPICE CREAMER AND PEPPERMINT CREAMER
DID YOU SAY YOU WANT A SLICE OF PUMPKIN PIE WITH CANDY CANES IN IT?
YEP! SEEMS FESTIVE!
MENU
MARSHALL 12-22
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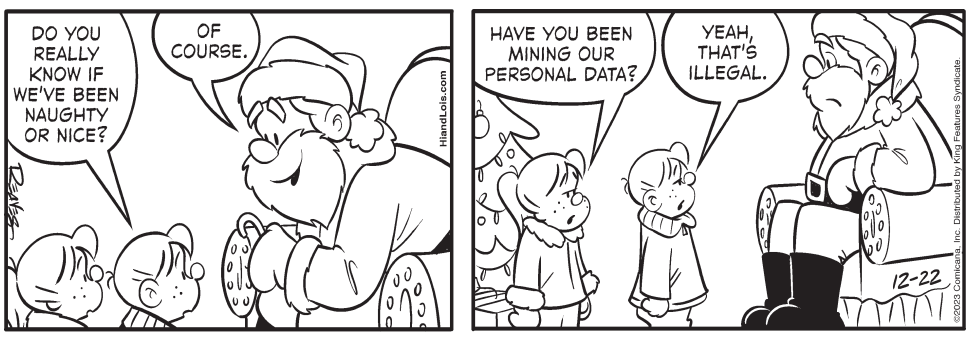
www.Blondie.com

HI & LOIS


DO YOU REALLY KNOW IF WE'VE BEEN NAUGHTY OR NICE?
OF COURSE.
HIandLois.com
HAVE YOU BEEN MINING OUR PERSONAL DATA?
YEAH, THAT'S ILLEGAL.
12-22
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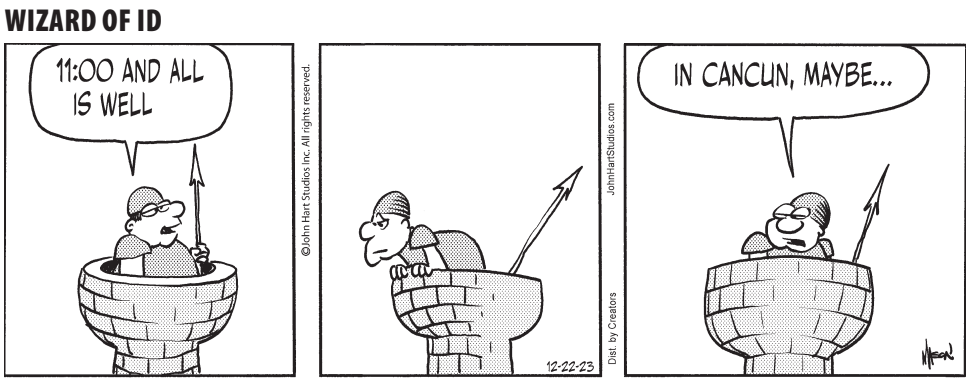
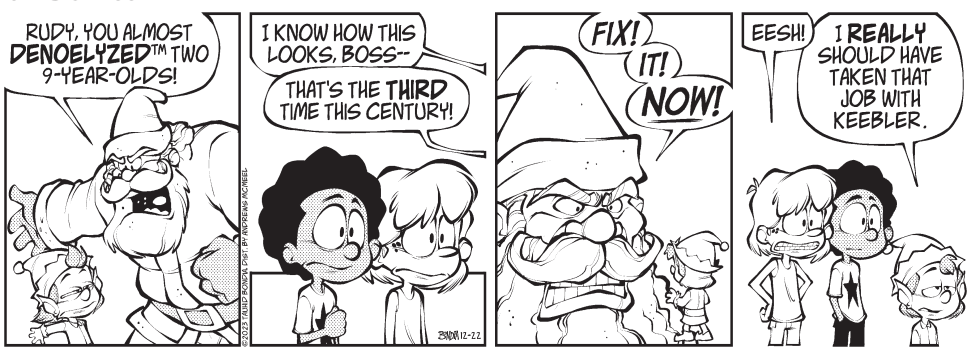
BC

WIZARD OF ID



CRABGRASS


RUDY, YOU ALMOST DENOELYZED™ TWO 9-YEAR-OLDS!
I KNOW HOW THIS LOOKS, BOSS--
THAT'S THE THIRD TIME THIS CENTURY!
FIX! IT! NOW!
EESH!
I REALLY SHOULD HAVE TAKEN THAT JOB WITH KEEBLER.
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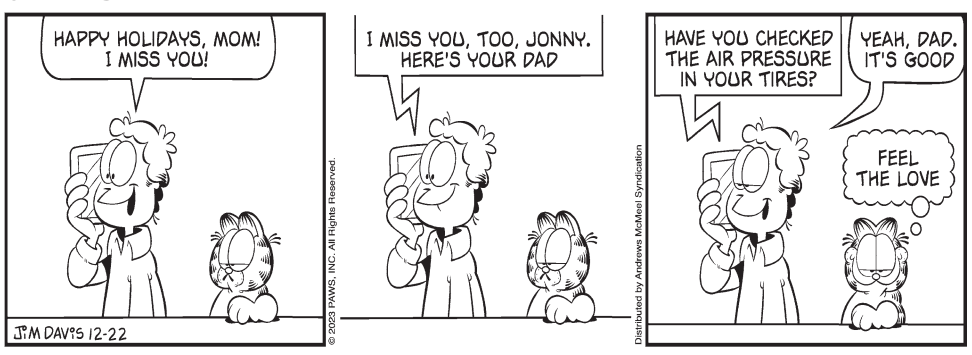
GARFIELD


HAPPY HOLIDAYS, MOM! I MISS YOU!
I MISS YOU, TOO, JONNY. HERE'S YOUR DAD
HAVE YOU CHECKED THE AIR PRESSURE IN YOUR TIRES?
YEAH, DAD. IT'S GOOD
FEEL THE LOVE
JIM DAVIS 12-22
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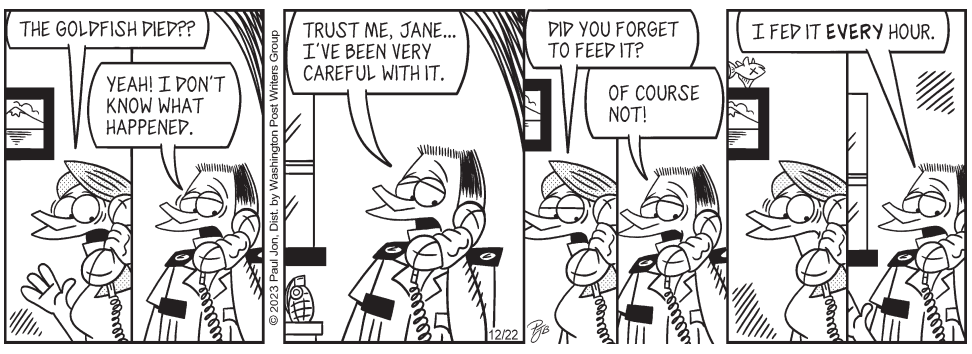
FORT KNOX


THE GOLDFISH DIED??
YEAH! I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED.
TRUST ME, JANE... I'VE BEEN VERY CAREFUL WITH IT.
DID YOU FORGET TO FEED IT?
OF COURSE NOT!
I FED IT EVERY HOUR.
12/22
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PICKLES

EARL, YOU CAN'T WRAP YOUR GIFTS IN A TRASH BAG!
IT'S NOT A TRASH BAG. IT HAS A BOW ON IT.
SLAPPING A BOW ON IT DOESN'T MAKE IT A GIFT BAG!
I KNOW. I ALSO PUT A NAME TAG ON IT. THIS ONE'S FOR YOU.
12/22
BRIAN CRANE
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FAMILY CIRCUS

"Let's sing that — 'O Little Town of Bethle-hymn'!"

DENNIS THE MENACE

"WELL, YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE YOU BOUGHT ME JUST WHAT I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS."

BABY BLUES

DAD? WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE?
OH, THIS AND THAT.
THE GARAGE IS A MAN'S SANCTUARY, SON. JUST BEING OUT HERE AMONG TOOLS IS GOOD FOR THE SOUL.
SO, YOU'RE HIDING FROM MOM?
MAYBE I'D LOOK BUSIER IF I HAMMERED SOMETHING...
babyblues.com
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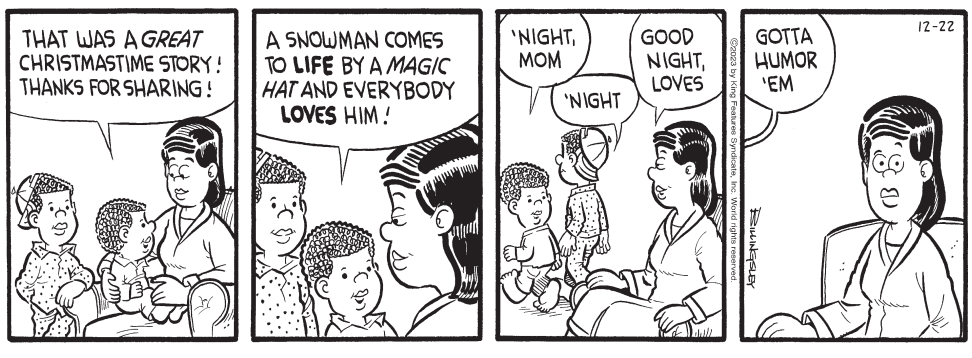
CURTIS


THAT WAS A GREAT CHRISTMASTIME STORY! THANKS FOR SHARING!
A SNOWMAN COMES TO LIFE BY A MAGIC HAT AND EVERYBODY LOVES HIM!
'NIGHT, MOM
'NIGHT
GOOD NIGHT, LOVES
GOTTA HUMOR 'EM
12-22
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ZITS

SO, I'M NOT GIVING MOM BACKYARD CHICKENS FOR CHRISTMAS.
WHAT CHANGED YOUR MIND?
I CHECKED WITH THE FEED STORE, AND YOU WERE RIGHT THAT RAISING CHICKENS ISN'T FOR EVERYONE.
YOUR DECISION-MAKING SKILLS HAVE IMPROVED.
YOU'D THINK.
zitscomics.com
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TODAY IN HISTORY

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 22, 1990, Lech Walesa took the oath of office as Poland's first popularly elected president.

On this date:

In 1858, opera composer Giacomo Puccini was born in Lucca, Italy.

In 1894, French army officer Alfred Dreyfus was convicted of treason in a court-martial that triggered worldwide charges of anti-Semitism. (Dreyfus was eventually vindicated.)

In 1941, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill arrived in Washington for a wartime conference with President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

In 1944, during the World War II Battle of the Bulge, U.S. Brig. Gen. Anthony C. McAuliffe rejected a German demand for surrender, writing "Nuts!" in his official reply.

In 1984, New York City resident Bernhard Goetz shot and wounded four young Black men on a Manhattan subway, alleging they were about to rob him.

In 1989, Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu, the last of Eastern Europe's hard-line Communist rulers, was toppled from power in a popular uprising.

In 1992, a Libyan Boeing 727 jetliner crashed after a midair collision with a MiG fighter, killing all 157 aboard the jetliner, and both crew members of the fighter jet.

In 1995, actor Butterfly McQueen, who'd played the slave Prissy in "Gone with the Wind," died in Augusta, Georgia, at age 84.

In 2001, Richard C. Reid, a passenger on an

American Airlines flight from Paris to Miami, tried to ignite explosives in his shoes, but was subdued by flight attendants and fellow passengers. (Reid is serving a life sentence in federal prison.)

In 2003, a federal judge ruled the Pentagon couldn't enforce mandatory anthrax vaccinations for military personnel.

In 2010, President Barack Obama signed a law allowing gays for the first time in history to serve openly in America's military, repealing the "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

In 2017, the wildfire that had burned its way through communities and wilderness northwest of Los Angeles became the largest blaze ever officially recorded in California; it had scorched 273,400 acres and destroyed more than 700 homes.

In 2020, President Donald Trump unexpectedly released two videos, one falsely declaring that he had won the election in a "landslide," and the other urging lawmakers to increase direct payments for most individuals to $2,000 in a COVID relief package, a move opposed by most Republicans.

Today's Birthdays:

Actor Hector Elizondo is 87. Country singer Red Steagall is 85. Former World Bank Group President Paul Wolfowitz is 80. Baseball Hall of Famer Steve Carlton is 79. Former ABC News anchor Diane Sawyer is 78. Rock singer-musician Rick Nielsen (Cheap Trick) is 75. Rock singer-musician Michael Bacon is 75. Baseball All-Star Steve Garvey is 75. Golfer Jan Stephenson is 72. Actor BernNadette Stanis is 70. Rapper Luther "Luke" Campbell is 63. Actor Ralph Fiennes is 61. Actor Lauralee Bell is 55. Country singer Lori McKenna is 55. Actor Dina Meyer is 55. Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, is 53. Actor Heather Donahue is 50. Actor Chris Carmack is 43. Actor Harry Ford is 41. Actor Greg Finley is 39. Actor Logan Huffman is 34. R&B singer Jordin Sparks is 34. Pop singer Meghan Trainor is 30. Norwegian tennis player Casper Ruud is 25.

BEETLE BAILEY

THERE'S A WATER SHORTAGE, SO WE HAVE TO CUT BACK ON SHOWERS
GREG + MORT WALKER 12/23
WE ALL NEED TO MAKE SACRIFICES AND...
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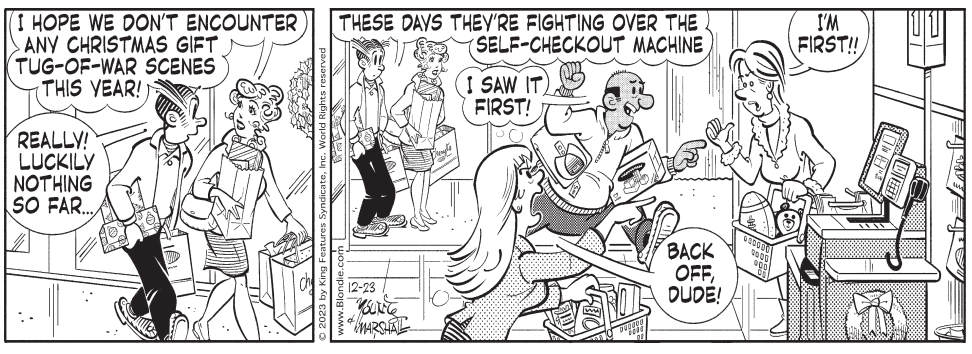
BLONDIE


I HOPE WE DON'T ENCOUNTER ANY CHRISTMAS GIFT TUG-OF-WAR SCENES THIS YEAR!
REALLY! LUCKILY NOTHING SO FAR...
THESE DAYS THEY'RE FIGHTING OVER THE SELF-CHECKOUT MACHINE
I SAW IT FIRST!
I'M FIRST!!
BACK OFF, DUDE!
12-23
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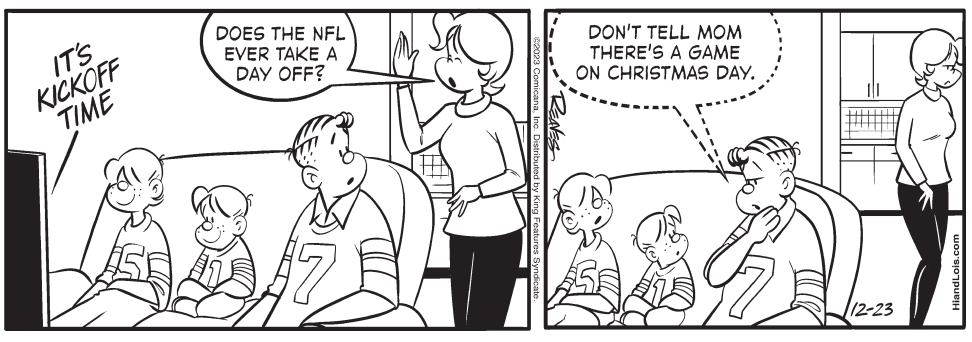
HI & LOIS


IT'S KICKOFF TIME
DOES THE NFL EVER TAKE A DAY OFF?
DON'T TELL MOM THERE'S A GAME ON CHRISTMAS DAY.
12-23
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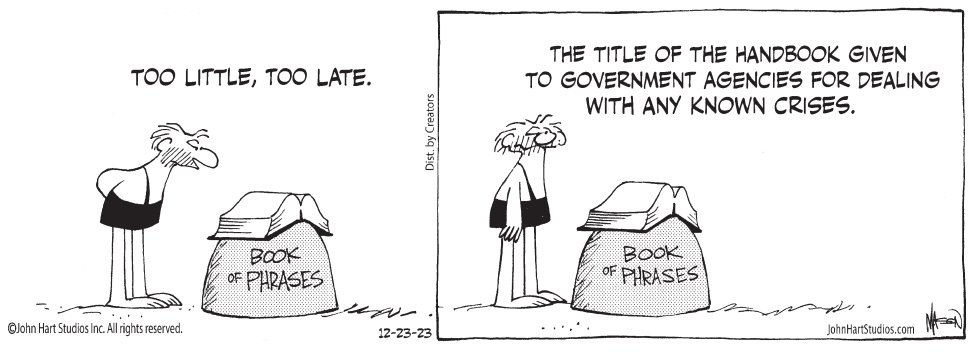
HiandLois.com

BC


TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE.
BOOK OF PHRASES
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12-23-23
THE TITLE OF THE HANDBOOK GIVEN TO GOVERNMENT AGENCIES FOR DEALING WITH ANY KNOWN CRISES.
BOOK OF PHRASES
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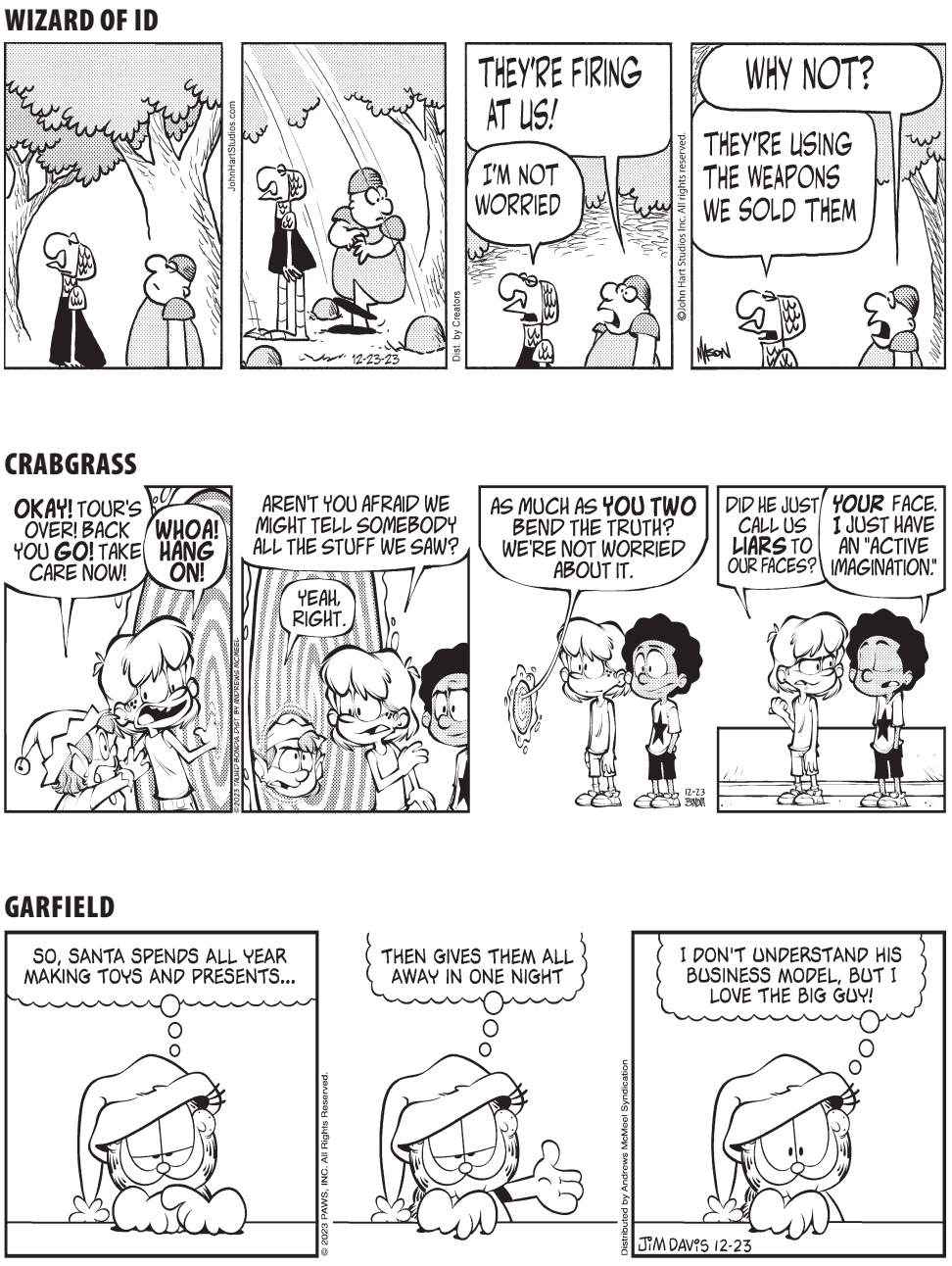
WIZARD OF ID



CRABGRASS

OKAY! TOUR'S OVER! BACK YOU GO! TAKE CARE NOW!
WHOA! HANG ON!
AREN'T YOU AFRAID WE MIGHT TELL SOMEBODY ALL THE STUFF WE SAW?
YEAH, RIGHT.
AS MUCH AS YOU TWO BEND THE TRUTH? WE'RE NOT WORRIED ABOUT IT.
DID HE JUST CALL US LIARS TO OUR FACES?
YOUR FACE. I JUST HAVE AN "ACTIVE IMAGINATION."
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GARFIELD

SO, SANTA SPENDS ALL YEAR MAKING TOYS AND PRESENTS...
THEN GIVES THEM ALL AWAY IN ONE NIGHT
I DON'T UNDERSTAND HIS BUSINESS MODEL, BUT I LOVE THE BIG GUY!
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JIM DAVIS 12-23

FORT KNOX

DONALD, WE NEED TO GO TO THE PET STORE AND FIND A FISH THAT LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE THE ONE WE GOT FOR YOUR BROTHER.
OKAY - DO YOU HAVE A PHOTO OF IT?
NO, I HAVE SOMETHING BETTER...
THE ACTUAL FISH.
WHERE?
IN THE FREEZER.
AIGHHH!!!
12/23
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PICKLES

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU WRAPPED MY GIFTS IN A TRASH BAG, EARL!
WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE? IT'S WHAT'S INSIDE THAT COUNTS.
AND IT STINKS!
SNIFF SNIFF
12/23
OOPS! I MUST'VE PUT THE ONE WITH YOUR GIFTS OUT FOR THE GARBAGE MAN!!
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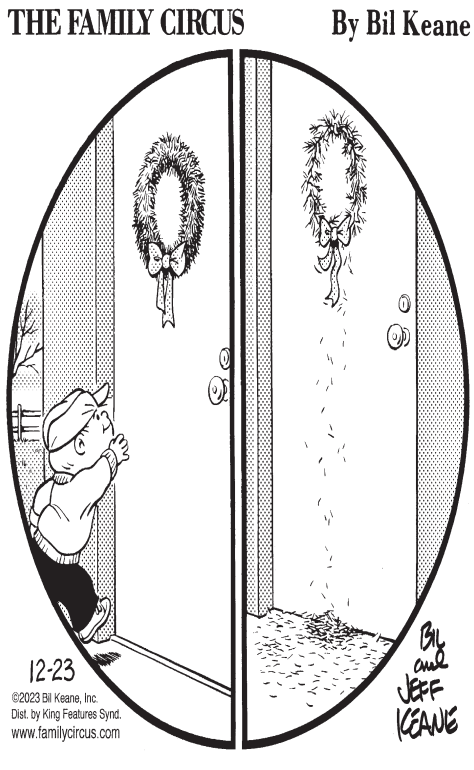
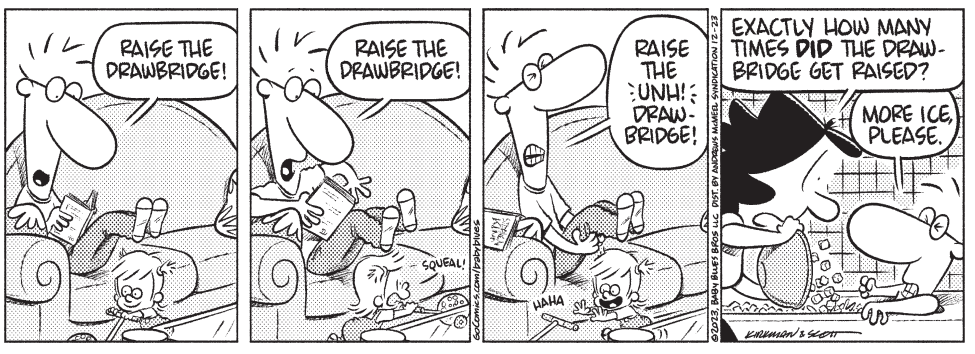
FAMILY CIRCUS



DENNIS THE MENACE

BABY BLUES


RAISE THE DRAWBRIDGE!
RAISE THE DRAWBRIDGE!
SQUEAL!
RAISE THE DRAWBRIDGE!
UNH! DRAW-BRIDGE!
HAHA
EXACTLY HOW MANY TIMES DID THE DRAW-BRIDGE GET RAISED?
MORE ICE, PLEASE.
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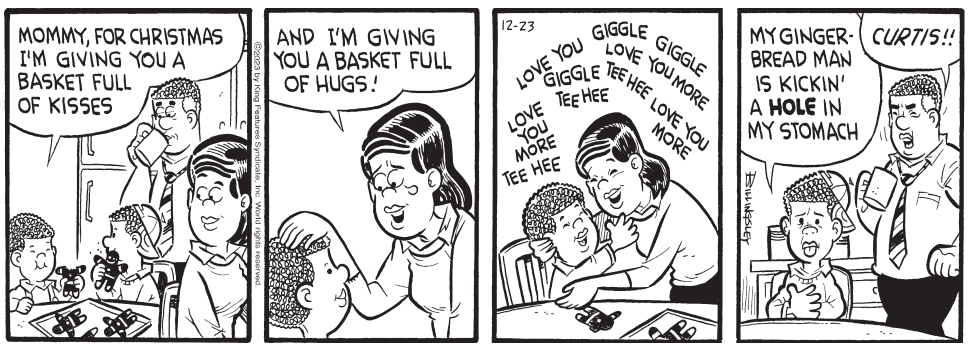
CURTIS


MOMMY, FOR CHRISTMAS I'M GIVING YOU A BASKET FULL OF KISSES
AND I'M GIVING YOU A BASKET FULL OF HUGS!
12-23
LOVE YOU GIGGLE GIGGLE LOVE YOU MORE
GIGGLE TEE HEE LOVE YOU MORE
LOVE YOU MORE TEE HEE
MY GINGER-BREAD MAN IS KICKIN' A HOLE IN MY STOMACH
CURTIS!!
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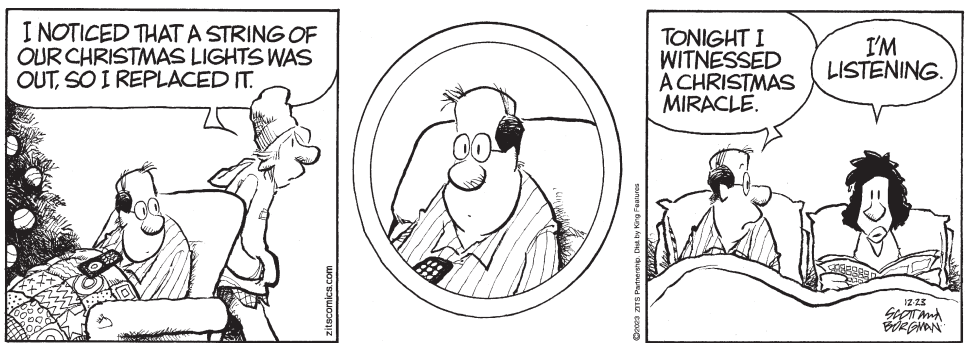
ZITS


I NOTICED THAT A STRING OF OUR CHRISTMAS LIGHTS WAS OUT, SO I REPLACED IT.
zitscomics.com
TONIGHT I WITNESSED A CHRISTMAS MIRACLE.
I'M LISTENING.
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12-23

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 23, 1948, former Japanese premier Hideki Tojo and six other Japanese war leaders were executed in Tokyo.

On this date:

In 1783, George Washington resigned as commander in chief of the Continental Army and retired to his home at Mount Vernon, Virginia.

In 1788, Maryland passed an act to cede an area "not exceeding ten miles square" for the seat of the national government; about two-thirds of the area became the District of Columbia.

In 1823, the poem "Account of a Visit from St. Nicholas" was published in the Troy (New York) Sentinel; the verse, more popularly known as "'Twas the Night Before Christmas," was later attributed to Clement C. Moore.

In 1913, the Federal Reserve System was created as President Woodrow Wilson signed the Federal Reserve Act.

In 1941, during World War II, American forces on Wake Island surrendered to the Japanese.

In 1954, the first successful human kidney transplant took place at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in Boston as a surgical team removed a kidney from 23-year-old Ronald Herrick and implanted it in Herrick's twin brother, Richard.

In 1968, 82 crew members of the U.S. intelligence ship Pueblo were released by North Korea, 11 months after they had been captured.

In 1972, a 6.2-magnitude earthquake struck Nicaragua; the disaster claimed some 5,000 lives.

In 1986, the experimental airplane Voyager, piloted by Dick Rutan and Jeana Yeager, completed the first non-stop, non-refueled round-the-world flight as it returned safely to Edwards Air Force Base in California.

In 1997, a federal jury in Denver convicted Terry Nichols of involuntary manslaughter and conspiracy for his role in the Oklahoma City bombing, declining to find him guilty of murder. (Nichols was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.)

In 2003, a jury in Chesapeake, Virginia, sentenced teen sniper Lee Boyd Malvo to life in prison, sparing him the death penalty.

In 2016, the United States allowed the U.N. Security Council to condemn Israeli settlements in the West Bank and east Jerusalem as a "flagrant violation" of international law; the decision to abstain from the council's 14-0 vote was one of the biggest American rebukes of its longstanding ally in recent memory.

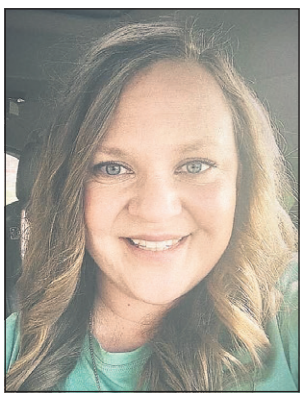
In 2021, Joan Didion, the revered author and essayist known for her provocative social commentary and detached, methodical literary voice, died of complications from Parkinson's disease at age 87.

In 2022, winter weather blanketed the U.S. as a massive storm sent temperatures crashing and created whiteout conditions. More than 200 million people — about 60% of the U.S. population — were under some form of weather advisory or warning.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Ronnie Schell is 92. Former Emperor Akihito of Japan is 90. Rock musician Jorma Kaukonen is 83. Actor-comedian Harry Shearer is 80. U.S. Army Gen. Wesley K. Clark (ret.) is 79. Actor Susan Lucci is 77. Singer-musician Adrian Belew is 74. Rock musician Dave Murray (Iron Maiden) is 67. Actor Joan Severance is 65. Singer Terry Weeks is 60. Rock singer Eddie Vedder (Pearl Jam) is 59. The former first lady of France, Carla Bruni-Sarkozy, is 56. Rock musician Jamie Murphy is 48. Jazz musician Irvin Mayfield is 46. Actor Estella Warren is 45. Actor Elvy Yost is 36. Actor Anna Maria Perez de Tagle is 33. Actor Spencer Daniels is 31. Actor Caleb Foote is 30.

OBITUARIES

Naomi Sue Briner



Naomi Sue Briner, 35, of Madison, entered this life on Jan. 9, 1988.

She was the daughter of Jerry Lee and Kimberly Sue Smith Briner. She was raised and lived all of her life in Jefferson County.

Naomi graduated in 2006 from Madison Consolidated High School and then received her RN from Ivy Tech.

She was raised in the Calvary Wesleyan Church and also attended North Madison Christian Church.

She was blessed with daughters, Adelia Faye and Iyla Danielle and a son, Leland Matlock.

She had worked for Clark Memorial Hospital in Jeffersonville for seven years and then began a career with the Madison Correctional Facility as the Director of Nursing and was currently serving as the Health Services Administrator.

Naomi died on Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2023, at her home in Madison.

Naomi will be missed by her father, Jerry Lee Briner and his wife, Carol of Madison; her mother, Kimberly Sue Smith Briner of Madison; her sisters, Amber Briner Helms and her husband, Aaron of El Dorado Hills, CA, Emily Briner and her husband, Daniel Schneider of El Dorado Hills, CA, Rachel Briner and her companion, Christian Pierce of Folsom, CA; her stepbrothers, Jeremy Hall and his wife, Addie of Madison, James Hall and his wife, Allison of Bloomington; her nieces and her nephews, Henry Helms, Clara Helms, Daisy Briner, Harrison Hall, Hudson Hall, Caroline Hall, Willa Hall; her uncles and her aunts, William and Judy Briner of Madison, Elmyra Moore Cummins and Jack Cummins of TN, Betsy and Charlie Anderson of Underwood, Russell and Lori Briner of Madison, Mary and Bill Cragmyle of Madison, LaWanda Halfacre of Deputy, Terry and Brenda Smith of Shepherdsville, KY, Jeff and Jessica Smith of North Vernon; her great-aunts and her great-uncle, Sally Brown, Robert Brown and JoAnn Brown; numerous cousins and other relatives.

She was preceded in death by her children, Adelia Faye Briner, Leland Matlock Briner, and Iyla Danielle Briner, all died Dec. 12, 2023, her maternal grandparents, Acie P. Smith Jr., and Betty Jean Brown Smith; her paternal grandparents, William I. Briner, and Edythe Faye Gillespie Briner; her uncles and her aunts, Phyllis Briner Chandler, Lonny Lionel Briner Sr., Carrie Lynn Briner and Urban Jacob Briner; her companion, Dustin Smith.

Funeral services will be conducted Saturday, Dec. 23, 2023, at 11 a.m. at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre, 325 Demaree Drive in Madison. Private interment will be in the Dupont Cemetery in Dupont.

Friends may visit Friday from 4-8 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. until the time of service at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Ivy Tech Nursing Program. Cards are available at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Madison and Hanover.

Online condolences, remembrances, and memorials can be left at www.morgan-nay.com.

Iyla Danielle Briner

Iyla Danielle Briner, 6, of Madison, entered this life on Dec. 19, 2023 in Jeffersonville. She was the daughter of Danny Matlock and Naomi Sue Briner. She resided all of her life on Rykers Ridge in Jefferson County and was currently a first grader at the Rykers Ridge Elementary School. She attended North Madison Christian Church and enjoyed playing with her dolls, making crafts, and painting. She loved everything horses, watching spirit on TV, playing with her horse toys and especially riding horses. She was a loving little girl and enjoyed playing with her siblings.

Iyla died on Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2023, at her home in Madison.

Iyla will be missed by her father and stepmother, Danny Matlock and his wife, Jenna of Madison; her sister, Makenna Matlock of Charlestown; her paternal grandma, Deborah Atkins of Jeffersonville; her paternal grandfather and step-grandmother, Danny Matlock and his wife, LaTonya of New Albany; her maternal grandfather and step-grandmother, Jerry Briner and his wife, Carol of Madison; her maternal grandmother, Kimberly Sue Smith Briner of Madison; her paternal step-grandparents, Cliff and Tammy Carnes of Madison, Ken and Barb McMahon of Columbus, OH; numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and other relatives.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Naomi Sue Briner; her sister and her brother, Adelia Faye Briner and Leland Matlock Briner, all died Dec. 12, 2023.

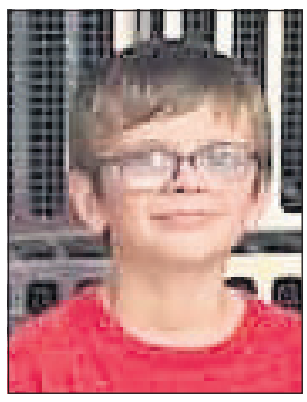
Funeral services will be conducted Friday, Dec. 22, 2023, at 11 a.m., by Bro. Donnie Roark at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre, 325 Demaree Drive in Madison.

Friends may visit Thursday, Dec. 21, 2023 from 4-8 p.m. and Friday from 10 a.m. until the time of service at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Iyla Danielle Briner Remembrance Fund. Cards are available at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Madison and Hanover.

Online condolences, remembrances, and memorials can be left at www.morgan-nay.com.

Leland Matlock Briner



Leland Matlock Briner, 8, of Madison, entered this life on June 26, 2015 in Jeffersonville. He was the son of Danny Matlock and Naomi Sue Briner. He resided all of his life in Jefferson County and was raised on Rykers Ridge. He currently was a third grader at Rykers Ridge Elementary School. He attended North Madison Christian Church in Madison and loved playing games, Legos, Minecraft, Fortnight, and other computer games. He was a very rambunctious and imaginative child and was "all boy." He loved his sisters and enjoyed all their fun times together.

Leland died on Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2023, at 5:03 p.m. at his home in Madison.

Leland will be missed by his father and stepmother, Danny Matlock and his wife, Jenna of Madison; his sister, Makenna Matlock of Charlestown; his paternal grandmother, Deborah Adkins of Jeffersonville; his paternal grandfather and step grandmother, Danny Matlock and his wife, LaTonya of New Albany; his maternal grandfather and step-grandmother, Jerry Briner and his wife, Carol of Madison; his maternal grandmother, Kimberly Sue Smith Briner of Madison; his step-grandparents, Cliff and Tammy Carnes of Madison, Ken and Barb McMahon of Columbus, OH; numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and other relatives.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Naomi Sue Briner, his sisters, Adelia Faye Briner and Iyla Danielle Briner, all died Dec. 12, 2023.

Funeral services will be conducted Friday, Dec. 22, 2023, at 11 a.m., by Bro. Donnie Roark at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre, 325 Demaree Drive in Madison.

Friends may visit Thursday, Dec. 21, 2023, from 4-8 p.m. and Friday from 10 a.m. until the time of service at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Leland Matlock Briner Remembrance Fund. Cards are available at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Madison and Hanover.

Online condolences, remembrances, and Memorials can be left at www.morgan-nay.com.

Linda Sue McCarty Balon

Linda Sue McCarty Balon, 59, of Hanover, entered this life on Jan. 10, 1964 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

She was the loving daughter of Douglas and Gloria McMullen McCarty.

Her father was in the service so the family moved a lot during her childhood and school years.

She always said she was dropped off in Philadelphia as they moved.

She graduated in 1982 from Southwestern High School at Hanover.

Linda was inducted into the United States Army on Jan. 5, 1983 in Louisville, Kentucky.

She rose to the rate of Specialist Four serving in Radar Control.

She was honorably discharged on Jan. 3, 1986 at Fort Polk, Louisiana receiving the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon, and the Good Conduct Medal.

She was also a marksman with the M-16.

On Sept. 20, 1997, she was united in marriage to Michael Paul Balon in San Diego, California. This happy union of 26 years was blessed with a daughter, Caleigh Adele. Linda was a loving wife, devoted mom, homemaker and enjoyed home schooling her daughter.

Linda and Mike moved to Hanover in May 2021 to be near her parents and she began working as the office administrator at the River Valley Community Church in Madison.

Linda was an artist in photography and enjoyed volunteering at Art on Main in downtown Madison where she featured her work.

She was a faithful member of the River Valley Community Church in Madison.

Linda was a fantastic cook, enjoyed sewing, but most of all she loved being with her family.

Linda died after suffering a heart attack from a dissecting aneurysm on Monday, Dec. 18, 2023, at 10:45 a.m. at the Norton Hospital in Louisville, Kentucky.

Linda will be missed by her loving husband of 26 years, Michael Paul Balon of Hanover; her beloved daughter, Caleigh Adele Balon and her husband, Brandon Guillory of San Diego, CA; her heartbroken parents, Douglas and Gloria McMullen McCarty of Hanover; her loving sister, Karen Purtell and her husband, Chris of Plainfield; her loving brother, William "Bill" McCarty and his wife, Becca of Georgetown; another brother Sumner McCarty and his wife, Cecilia of Cocoa Beach, FL; her aunt, Pat Robinson and her husband, Rich of Frackville, PA; her uncles, Tom McCarty of AK, Dick McCarty and his wife, Ronnie of Colorado; her nieces and her nephews, Alli McCarty, Grant Purtell, Truman Purtell, Ever McCarty, Grey McCarty, Tyler Shimandle, Nathan Shimandle, Kasey Shimandle, Eric Warwas, and Elyse Warwas; her mother-in-law, Barbara Balon of Allentown, PA; her sister-in-laws, Lorraine Balon and her husband, Bob Donaldson of Hershey, PA, Helen Shimandle and her husband, Frank of Carlisle, PA; and other relatives.

She was preceded in death by her father-in-law, Clement Balon.

Funeral services will be conducted Saturday, Dec. 23, 2023, at 5 p.m., by Sharon Lester and Adam Gilbert at the River Valley Community Church, 2535 Clifty Drive in Madison. Friends may visit Saturday from 3-5 p.m. at the River Valley Community Church.

A final salute with military honors will be provided by the Major Samuel Woodfill Post No. 9 of the American Legion.

Memorial contributions may be made to the River Valley Community Church. Cards are available at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Madison and Hanover or at the church.

Online condolences, remembrances and memorials can be left at www.morgan-nay.com.

Stephen 'Beezer' Edward Miller

Stephen "Beezer" Edward Miller, 62, of North Vernon, passed away on Saturday, Dec. 16, 2023.

There was a Mass and Burial on Thursday, Dec. 21, 2023, at St. Mary's Catholic Church.

The Rev. Jerry Byrd was the officiant. Burial was in the St. Mary's Cemetery.

A celebration of life was held immediately following the burial at the St. Mary's Parish Center.

Born on Oct. 27, 1961, in Seymour, Beezer was the loving son of Donald B. and Mary Hope (Doran) Miller. Beezer was the youngest of 11 children. His brothers and sisters would be very big influences in his life. An outdoorsman from a very early age, he developed a lifelong passion for fishing that he would share and cherish with his many brothers, his father Don, friends, sons and grandsons. Beezer was an accomplished high school athlete and collegiate basketball player and a 1980 graduate of Jennings County High School. He led the Panthers to one basketball sectional title and earned All Sectional recognition in 1978-80 and All State recognition in 1980 among other accolades.

Beezer still holds the record for most points scored in a varsity basketball game at JCHS having scored 46 points and only shooting four free throws in that contest.

He was a hard-to-beat high school tennis player earning all-conference recognition. These skills would later in life translate to the Ping Pong table where he was rarely beaten.

After graduating from Jennings County High School, he went to Indiana State on a full ride to play basketball the year after Larry Bird would depart for the NBA. Beezer would transfer to Bellarmine University where he played four years of basketball and earned his bachelor's degree in Business Administration in 1986. Beezer was a member of the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame Silver Anniversary Team in 2005 and was the City of Louisville Supper Club Sportsman of the Year his senior year at Bellarmine.

He was the owner of Miller Tire and founded Martin and Miller Real Estate Co. now Coldwell Banker with Rick Martin. Beezer was a fast-picking banjo player who had played with several bands over the years. He was recently inducted into the Park Theater Musician Hall of Fame in North Vernon. Beezer was an accomplished entrepreneur and real estate developer, having worked with many partners over the years. He cherished those relationships and above all he cherished his time spent with family and friends. Whether playing music or guiding the boat across open water Beezer was always making memories for those close to him.

Left to cherish his memory are sons, Donald (Linda) Miller of North Vernon, Edward (Rachel) Miller of Freeport, FL and David Miller of Freeport, FL; grandchildren, Wayne and Barrett Miller; sisters, Patricia Miller of North Vernon, Teresa "Bug" (Danny) Brown of Columbus, Mary "Fireball" Miller of North Vernon; brothers, John "Spider" (Kathy) Miller of Bloomington, Donald Miller, Bernie (Sharon) Miller, Paul (Lonnie) Miller, and David Miller all of North Vernon; brother-in-law, Dr. Larry Brooks of Bloomington.

In addition to his parents, Donald and Mary Miller, Beezer is preceded in death by sister, Ann Brooks and his brother, Frank Miller.

Memorials can be made through the funeral home to the organization of the donor's choice.

Friends and family are invited to light a candle or leave a message of condolence in Beezer's memory at www.sawyerfuneralservice.com.

SEE **OBITUARIES/PAGE A7**

DEATH NOTICES

Carol Arlene Smith Copeland, 88, of North Vernon, IN and formerly of Bedford, KY, died Friday, Dec. 8, 2023, at her home. Funeral services were Friday, Dec. 15, at Ransdell Funeral Home in Bedford, with interment in Bedford Cemetery there, www.ransdellfuneral.com.

Frederick G. "Fritz" Robinson, 63, of Daleville, IN, died Wednesday, Dec. 20, 2023, at Envive Healthcare of Anderson in Anderson, IN. Arrangements are pending with the Haskell & Morrison Funeral Home, Vevay, IN, www.haskel-landmorrison.com.

Billy J. Skirvin, 58, of Hanover, IN, died Wednesday, Dec. 20, 2023, at Baptist Health-Floyd in New Albany, IN. Funeral arrangements will be announced by the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres in Madison, IN, www.morgan-nay.com.

OBITUARIES

Norma Faye Boyd Baxter

Norma Faye Boyd Baxter, 91, of Deputy, entered this life on Dec. 28, 1931 in Jefferson County, where she lived her entire life. She was the loving daughter of the late Ernest and Maysel May Perkinson Boyd. She was a 1949 graduate of Deputy High School in Deputy, Indiana. On April 9, 1953, she married Donald Allen Baxter at the old Hanover United Methodist Church in Hanover. This happy union of 68 years was blessed with a son, Phil and a daughter, Darla. She and her husband owned and operated Baxter Lumber LLC for 57 years in Deputy. She was a member of Scottsburg United Methodist Church and formerly the Deputy United Methodist Church. In her free time, Norma enjoyed gardening, reading, working puzzles, cooking, and taking care of her family. Norma and Donald had enjoyed wintering in Lake Wales, Florida for 29 years. Norma died on Sunday, Dec. 17, 2023, at 3:36 a.m. at her home in Deputy.

Norma will be missed by her loving daughter, Darla Baxter Malcomb of Deputy; her loving son, Phil Baxter and his wife, Jacqueline of Lexington; her beloved grandchildren, Sarah (Mike), Anna, Allen (Ashley, Eric, Donnie (Hannah); her adoring great-grandchildren, Colt, Bonnie, Kennedy, and Kip; her brother, Larry Boyd of Deputy; and other relatives.

She was preceded in death by her father, Ernest Boyd; her mother, Maysel May Perkinson Boyd; her husband of 68 years, Donald Allen Baxter; her son in law, Larry G. Malcomb; her brother, Ernest Leo Boyd; her sisters-in-law, Toni Boyd and Carolyn Jean Boyd.

Funeral services will be conducted on Wednesday, Dec. 27, 2023, at 11 a.m., by at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre, 325 Demaree Drive in Madison. Interment will follow in the Pisgah Cemetery near Deputy. Friends may visit Tuesday, Dec. 26, 2023 from 4-7 p.m. and Wednesday from 10 a.m. until the time of service at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre. Memorial contributions may be made to the Gideon's Memorial Bible Plan. Cards are available at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Madison and Hanover.

Online condolences, remembrances and memorials can be left at www.morgan-nay.com.

Laura 'Kathy' Katherine Polley Gerber

Laura "Kathy" Katherine Polley Gerber, 80, of Bedford, Kentucky entered this life on Dec. 12, 1943 in Carrollton, Kentucky. she was the loving daughter of the late George L. and Margaret Maxwell Polley. Kathy died on Monday, Dec. 18, 2023, at 3:30 a.m. at the Thornton Terrace Health Campus in Hanover.

Kathy will be missed by her loving husband of 58 years, William Arthur Gerber of Bedford, KY; her loving daughter, Sharai Pender and her husband Trey of Bedford, KY; her loving grandchildren, Alexus Kenzie Pender, Sada Lauren Pender and her fiancée, Dylan Chandler; her sister, Tina Aubrey of Milton, KY; her nephew, Austin Aubrey and his wife, Kylie; her great niece, Lisa Danielle Aubrey; her aunt, Ruth Maxwell of Bedford, KY; her best friend and caregiver, Cheryl "Tootie" Stevens of Bedford, KY; her special cousin who cared for her, Wayne and Paula Merrill of Milton, KY, and other relatives.

She was preceded in death by her father, George L. Polley; her mother, Margaret Maxwell Polley; her daughter, Sue Carol Gerber, and her son, William Anthony "Tony" Gerber.

Funeral services will be conducted on Wednesday, Dec. 27, 2023, at 2 p.m., by Preacher Clifton Hartley at the Mt. Byrd Christian Church, 92 Peck Pike in Milton, Kentucky. Interment will follow in the Moffett Cemetery in Milton.

Friends may visit on Tuesday, Dec. 26, 2023, from 4-7 p.m. and from 12 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 27, 2023 until the time of service at the Mt. Byrd Christian Church in Milton, Kentucky.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Milton Christian Church or to Our Hospice. Cards are available at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Madison and Hanover or at the church.

Online condolences, remembrances, and memorials can be left at www.morgan-nay.com.

Dorothy 'Dot' Etta Morris Overpeck

Dorothy "Dot" Etta Morris Overpeck, 76, of Madison, entered this life on June 10, 1947 in Liberty, Kentucky.

She was the loving daughter of the late Henry and Dicie Shouse Morris.

Dot died on Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2023, at her home in Madison.

Dot will be missed by her loving husband of 58 years, Frederick "Rick" Russell Overpeck Jr. of Madison; three her sons, Frederick Russell "Rusty" Overpeck III and his wife, Cristina of Weatherford, Texas, James Michael "Jimmy" Overpeck and his wife, Tina of Madison, John David Overpeck and his wife, Kimberly Ann of Sand Point, ID; her grandchildren, Aaron Overpeck, Brendan Overpeck, Lauren Mix, Kaidra Overpeck, Phillip Overpeck, Brayden Overpeck, Reaghan Overpeck, and Emily Overpeck; her great-grandchildren, Cayden Mix, Bennett Mix, Aniston Overpeck; her brothers, sisters, sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, Earl Morris and his wife, Marilyn of Bennington, Wanda Morris of Harrodsburg, KY; Virginia Stephan and her husband, Alois of Canaan, Lydia Ann Lainhart of Harrodsburg, KY; several nieces, nephews and other relatives.

She was preceded in death by her father, Henry Morris Sr.; her mother, Dicie Shouse Morris; her brothers, Virgil, Henry Jr., R.T., Bobby, Harvey, and Bill Morris; her sisters, Alberta Morris, Betty Avis Dalton, Malvary Morris and Flora Ellen Reynolds.

Celebration dinner will be held Thursday, Dec. 28, 2023, at 1 p.m., at the Madison Assembly of God Church-Fellowship Hall,1636 Clifty Drive in Madison.

Friends and family will gather at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre, 325 Demaree Drive on Thursday, Dec. 28, 2023, at 10 a.m. to go in procession to the Canaan Cemetery in Canaan for a public graveside service conducted by Pastor Jason Dailey.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Boys and Girls Club or the Jefferson County Youth Shelter.

Cards are available at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Madison and Hanover.

Online condolences, remembrances and memorials can be left at www.morgan-nay.com.

HMI offering free tours of Dr. Hutchings' office on MLK Day

BY SPECIAL TO THE COURIER

Two free tours will be offered by by Historic Madison Inc. (HMI) at Dr. Hutchings' Office, 120 West Third St., during the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday Monday, Jan. 15 .

The first tour begins at at 11 a.m. and the second at 2 p.m. Visitors are encouraged to meet their guides at Dr. Hutchings' Office a few minutes before tour time. No reservations are required and all ages are welcome to attend. Tours will last approximately 45 minutes.

Dr. Hutchings' Office is one of the most authentic 19th-century medical history restorations in the United States. Hundreds of Dr. Hutchings' medical records, surgical tools, books, and other artifacts including early electrical healing devices fill the office. Next door, in the museum, visitors can also enjoy a sampling of the Hutchings' family treasures.

Historic Madison Inc. has been offering tours at this site since 1973.

Founded in 1960, HMI is one of Indiana's oldest and most prestigious historic preservation organizations.

John Galvin served as president from 1981 to 2010. Under his leadership, HMI through its many programs and accomplishments, supported the preservation and improvement of Madison's historic district so that it attained status as a National Historic Landmark District, the highest designation a historic district can receive.

For more information or questions, contact Historic Madison Inc. at hmi@historicmadisoninc.com or call (812) 265-2967.

Prayer Box

For the healing of the community following last week's tragic incident in which one adult and three children were found dead in a house fire, a prayer and praise box has been placed in Lamplighter Park, allowing prayer requests, praise or reflections to be left. The prayer and praise box will remain there until New Year's Day at 3 p.m. when there will a short gathering with the purpose to lifting up the community.

PRAYER & Praise
You are welcome to write a prayer request, a praise, a prayer or a reflection.
There are pens and pencils in the blue top container.
Please put the filled out card in the red top container.
If you would like to pray for a request, simply return the card when finished.
This will remain until New Year's Day.
Come together New Year's Day at 3pm
for another short time to lift up our community together.
If interested, A Wig and a Prayer (in the Trolley Barn) has a prayer/praise wall for all.

Bob Demaree

HMI's Galvin scholarship now open

Applications for the Historic Madison Inc./ John and Maureen Galvin Scholarship are now available online at www.historicmadisoninc.com. The deadline to apply is Feb. 16.

This scholarship will be awarded to a qualified high school senior from a high school in Jefferson County, pursuing a degree in historic preservation, architecture, American History or related field.

Selection will be based on application materials, academic performance, and a demonstrated interest in the related field such as an internship, volunteer work, and community service.

Interested applicants should complete the application at www.historicmadisoninc.com.

Historic Madison Inc., founded in 1960, is one of Indiana's oldest and most prestigious historic preservation organizations. John Galvin served as president from 1981 to 2010. Under his leadership, Historic Madison Inc. through its many programs and accomplishments, supported the preservation and improvement of Madison's historic district so that it attained status as a National Historic Landmark District, the highest designation a historic district can receive.

The $1,000 scholarship award honors Galvin's community and preservation-related successes while recognizing Maureen Galvin's support for and encouragement of these worthy accomplishments in the hopes of inspiring future generations of preservationists, architects, and historians.

For more information or questions, contact Historic Madison Inc. at hmi@historicmadisoninc.com or call 812-265-2967.

Why Life Insurance is Essential

Layin' it on the line

By Stephen Dybwad
Retirement Planning/ Wealth Management

Financial security for your loved ones is a top priority for most people. Many individuals believe that having a substantial amount of savings is enough to protect their family's future. However, this may only sometimes be the case. In this article, we will discuss why having life insurance is essential, even when you have a considerable amount of savings, by looking at its potential payout scale, role in meeting financial responsibilities, and more.

Understanding the Scale of Life Insurance Payouts

Regarding life insurance, the potential payouts can be considerably larger than your savings – sometimes more than a million dollars, depending on the policy. Financial advisors often recommend having life insurance protection at least 10 times your annual salary. This is because, over the years, several factors may negatively impact your savings, such as economic downturns, inflation, or unexpected expenses, leaving your savings insufficient to cover your loved ones' needs in the event of your death.

The Role of Life Insurance in Meeting Financial Responsibilities

One significant financial responsibility life insurance can help with is raising a child. Education expenses, childcare, and healthcare costs can contribute to a substantial financial burden. Additionally, life insurance can help cover other debts and expenses, such as mortgages, car loans, and credit card debt. For married couples, life insurance can also be crucial in supporting a spouse's retirement, ensuring a comfortable lifestyle, and considering the rising living costs.

Mitigating the Risk of Unexpected Life Events

Life insurance can also help mitigate the financial risks associated with unexpected life events, such as disability or critical illness, which can severely impact one's earning capacity. This ensures your loved ones have adequate financial support during such trying times. Should an untimely death occur, life insurance can help cover funeral and legal expenses and make up for the loss of income that would impact your dependents. Moreover, life insurance can also serve as a financial legacy, leaving your loved ones with a tax-free inheritance.

The Benefits of Combining Savings and Life Insurance

Although life insurance and savings seem like separate financial entities, they complement each other quite well. Life insurance can act as an income replacement, while savings can serve as a cushion for unforeseen expenses. This combination provides flexibility in addressing various financial needs, such as building wealth and diversifying investments. Additionally, life insurance policies offer different options for customization, allowing you to choose the best plan for your specific needs.

Factors to Consider in Choosing the Right Life Insurance Plan

Before selecting a life insurance plan, assessing your financial goals and risk tolerance is necessary. To determine the right amount of coverage, you can use the income multiplication method or the human life value approach. It would help if you also familiarized yourself with the types of life insurance available – term life insurance, which covers you for a specified term, and permanent life insurance, which provides lifelong coverage. Finally, consider your policy's premium costs and potential returns to ensure that it aligns with your financial plan.

Conclusion:

Life insurance is a critical component of your financial plan and should not be overlooked, even if you have significant savings. By providing much-needed financial security in the event of death, disability, or illness, life insurance protects the well-being of your loved ones. Assess your financial needs today, and consider incorporating life insurance into your financial strategy to ensure your family is well-protected and prepared for the future.

Stephen Dybwad, a long time Hoosier resident, is a member of *Syndicated Columnists,* a national organization committed to a fully transparent approach to money management. Syndicated Columnists is the sole provider of this material, both written and conceptual, for this column. All rights reserved.

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(retirevillage.com)

City temporarily covers $300K for transfer station shortfall

4-2 vote allows time for rate study

BY BOB DEMAREE

Facing a deficit of $300,000 in the city's solid waste transfer station operating fund, Madison City Council voted 4-2 to approve moving funds from the water capital reserve fund to cover the shortfall.

"Bringing solvency to an essential operation like this is critical to maintaining the level of service our community expects," said Madison Mayor Bob Courtney. "Our garbage collection rates have been artificially low for decades and is not sustainable. "

Voting against the fund transfer were council members Dan Dattilo and Patrick Thevenow while council members Jim Bartlett, Lucy Dattilo, Carla Krebs and Joel Storm supported the move and Joshua Schafer was not present for the vote.

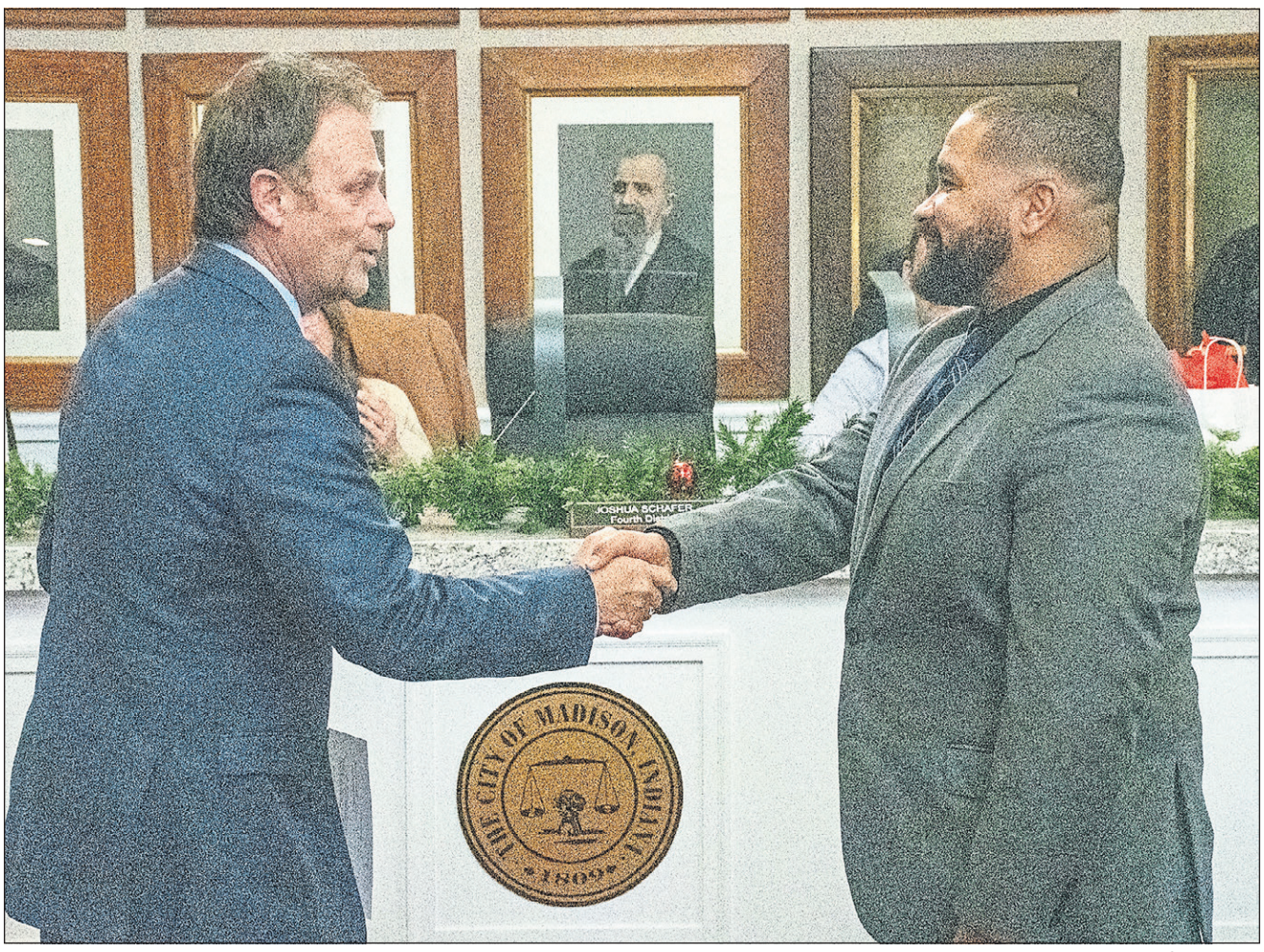
Courtney stated the transfer of funds would be temporary over the next six months with the funds to be transfered back to the water capital reserve fund once the city does a household trash rate study to better determine what the rates should be to balance operational costs.

Thevenow questioned by transfering the $300,000 temporarily and returning that amount six months later would be "leaving us with the $300,000 deficit to deal with next year as any hope that we will increase a rate increase for trash."

Courtney said the deficit amount "will be factored into the rate study that we are performing."

He also noted that city's utility operations include water, sewer, solid waste, curbside trash recycling and compost. "Back in the summer we started evaluating the deficit operation and rate structure relative to this particular part of our utility operation," he said, noting a change was made on the per ton rate from $62 to $79.

Courtney said the per ton rate increase only partially reduced deficit projections. "Keep in mind we were mid-year when we did that increase so only half a year benefit was received. The plan is to complete a physical needs assessment and household trash rate study to discuss in a few weeks."



Bob Demaree

Madison Mayor Bob Courtney congratulates Justin L. Cunningham (right) after Cunningham was sworn in as a Madison Police Officer during Tuesday's City Council meeting. Cunningham has previously served with the Louisville Metro Police for five years as a detective.

Courtney said there were "projected deficits throughout the course of the year but we would be curbing them with increase in the transfer station per tonage rate. That has occurred. The next step is to finalize our fiscal needs assessment for planning equipment and also future needs making new investment in that operation."

He said the interim step is "to clear out the deficit for 2023 and then over course of the next couple of months we will be evaluating the household curb collection rates, and modifying that, so that as the state requires that we operate in a sound fiscal manner. Rates have only been modestly changed over the course of the last 30 years, completely insufficient to maintain utility. We have quite a large need to address deferred maintenance as well as equipment. Over the course of the next couple of months, we will be addressing the rate structure."

Council president Carla Krebs said, "It's important to make sure the public is aware that our trash is $300,000 in the negative, and that there are going to be changes made somehow, somewhere to make that up. We can't just every year lose $300,000."

"Accumulatively, it's a lot more than that, and there are reasons for that," Courtney said. "The biggest is because of like what we experienced in water and sewer. It's just not properly evaluating the cost of that service and adjusting those user fees along the way, which is invaluable. It's critical" since solid waste disposal is "an essential service by the city that has be properly funded and properly capitalized so we make the right investments in it."

IN OTHER BUSINESS, THE COUNCIL

• Honored Dan Dattilo, a two-term Council member, in the last meeting of his term. "He has represented the people well. We will miss him," said Krebs. "We wish you the very best. We look forward to seeing you around town, and thank you so much for your willingness to serve our community for eight years."

"The last few years have been a whirlwind," Dattilo said. "They've gone really fast. I see nothing but amazing improvements to our city. I'm really proud to be just a very small part of that. It's really been my honor to serve, and I thank you. Thank you for making me welcome."

Dattilo, a Democrat, had run for Mayor but lost to Courtney in the general election.

• Approved a resolution to transfer appropriations totaling $381,750 within the 2023 annual budget. Deputy Mayor Mindy McGee said it is "typical year-end cleanup stuff before the end of the year. These moving monies from over-appropriated lines to under-appropriated categories that it's hard to predict a year-and-one-half out where you're going to spend where." She noted it doesn't increase the budget; that it's all money already in the budget. "It just allows us to close the year with everything where it needs to be." Overall, she said the transfers "are minimal considering it's a $14 million budget."

McGee noted much of the transfer is for parks, which were placed in a non-reverting fund about half-way through the year in order to track profitability of all facilities, but the appropriations were in the general fund because appropriations had been done the previous year. For tracking profitability, McGee stated parks has presented the most challenge. "It's the biggest enterprise, has the most facilities. It's been the most difficult one to get everything to where you easily see it coming out," but she thinks that's been achieved by using the NRO, which allows reports to be run that show that.

• The meeting was the last City Council meeting for John Wallace as police chief. Wallace is retiring at the end of the year after 37 years working in law enforcement. "It's been an honor and privilege to serve," said Wallace. "We've got a really bright future and a solid foundation to build an outstanding department for years to come."

Wallace followed in the footsteps of his father, John G. Wallace, who served as Madison police officer from 1954-1974. His two sons are currently serving as law enforcement officers with Indianapolis Metro Police.

• Issued the oath of office to Justin Cunningham as a new city police officer. Cunningham previously served with Louisville Metro Police for five years, where he has been a detective.

• Approved the appointment of Harriet "Happy" Smith to the Historic District Board of Review, succeeding Owen McCall, who completed two three-year terms, and the re-appointment of Ken McWilliams to a final three-year term to HDBR. That board is also losing Josh Wilber, who was elected to city council in November.

Meanwhile, Trevor Crafton was reappointed to a two-year term on Jefferson County Board of Tourism, Van Crafton to a four-year term on the Plan Commission, and Cara Fox to a three-year term on the PACE committee. Also, Anthony Brandon and Ray Wilson were reappointed to four-year terms on the Port Authority.

GROTE

FROM **PAGE A1**

Courtney said the resolution provides for a change in Indiana state law with regard to how long and how much an abatement can be, citing previous resolutions with Grote passed in 2011 in which abatement was for seven years. Now, state law permits abatements to run for up to 10 years. Courtney stated the purpose of the resolution that was passed "is the declaratory part amending the prior economic revitalization resolution," he said.

Courtney noted Grote is a "well-known, multi-national company headquartered here in Madison, Indiana" that was founded in 1901. The company's headquarters was moved to Madison in 1960, and its products include a full range of vehicle lighting, electrical and reflective systems, and the accessories necessary to support their long-life performance.

RAMbunctious

Have you seen me?
I am still lost.
I would like to be home for Christmas.
Grandpa needs me –
I am all he has left

lost August 10th 2022
in Clifty Falls State Park Campground;
seen several weeks later

white with light orange highlights
male
last wearing blue harness
shy - avoids people and vehicles - afraid of the garbage truck
smart
knows his name

if seen / captured please contact
Larry at
Access@PObox.com

or notify Clifty Falls St Pk Campground
or Jefferson Co Animal Shelter

Thank you!

A special thank you to all the following donors that made Shop With A Firefighter a very magical day!

Clifty Volunteer Fire Company #6, Fair Play Fire Company No. 1, Madison Lions Club, McKay Accounting Service, NorthMadison Volunteer Fire Company No. 5, River Ratz Rodz LLC, Rykers Ridge Volunteer Fire Department, Steinhardt Enterprises, Walnut St. Fire Company #4, Washington Fire Company #2, Western Fire Company #3, William&Teresa Ferguson, William F Stephan, Indiana-Kentucky Electric Corp., Jendy's of Hanover, Morning People Café, Dicky's Doghouse, Ben Hanley Agency, Inc., Hinkle's Sandwich Shop, Greve's TV & Appliance, Community Foundation, Kent Volunteer Fire Company Inc., Madison Correctional Facility, Wal-Mart, ServPro, Lytle Welty, Culver's and all those that gave anonymously.

We would also like to give a huge thanks to

Madison Elks Lodge and Elk Volunteers for breakfast, pictures, food baskets, shopping donation, and all their hard work!

The Moose Lodge for providing Domino's Pizza for lunch

Christmas With A Hero Inc.

Hanover College Athletic Director Lynn Hall (with certificate) was named a Sagamore of the Wabash by Gov. Eric Holcomb earlier this year. Hall has announced her retirement as AD.

Hanover College

Hanover AD Hall announces retirement

BY SPECIAL TO THE COURIER

Hanover College Director of Athletics Lynn Hall has announced her retirement at the end of the 2023-24 academic year.

Hall, a lifelong educator, athletic administrator, coach, mentor and fan, is stepping down after almost 40 years of service to the Hanover campus community.

"It has been an honor to serve my alma mater for the past 37 years," Hall said. "I will certainly miss my colleagues and the student athletes, but I won't be far away in retirement and will have opportunities to cheer for the Panthers. There are exciting things ahead for Hanover College and I know the athletics department will continue to thrive under new leadership."

SEE **HALL/PAGE B5**

BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

Scroggins' career-high leads Southwestern over Clarksville

BY THE COURIER STAFF

Riley Scroggins scored a career-high 21 points, sister Rorie Scroggins had a double-double and Ashley Fulton had a strong overall game to lead Southwestern to a 68-50 win over Clarksville at home on Tuesday in girls basketball.

Rorie Scroggins had 16 points and 11 rebounds while Fulton had 15 points, eight rebounds and six assists on the night. The Rebels pulled away in the second half to claim the win over a potential sectional opponent.

Southwestern, now 7-7 on the season, hosted Eastern (Pekin) on Thursday and competes in the Toby Yoho Classic at Eastern (Greene) starting on Thursday, Dec. 28. The Rebels will face Martinsville and Bloomfield on the opening day.

David Campbell

Southwestern's Sophie Ford (1) grabs a rebound just beyond the reach of teammate Harlee Hill during the Rebels' win over Clarksville on Tuesday.

SHAWE HAMMERS TIGERS

Shawe dominated Crothersville from start to finish and rolled to a 58-10 win in girls basketball on Tuesday.

The Hilltoppers led 23-0 after the first quarter and 38-5 at halftime. All six players scored for Shawe, led by Allison Knoebel with 20 points. Hunter Mote added 16 points, 11 steals and five assists, Jamison Williams had nine points and Ava Turner had five points and 10 rebounds.

Shawe, now 3-7 on the season, competes in the Pam Browning Classic at Carroll County starting on Wednesday, Dec. 27. The Hilltoppers will face Harrison County (Ky.) in the opening game.

HANOVER MEN ROLL ASBURY

Hanover dominated the second half to beat Asbury 87-75 in men's basketball at home on Tuesday afternoon.

The Panthers actually trailed 36-35 at halftime but outscored Asbury 52-39 over the final 20 minutes to grab the win.

Ty Houston had 21 points and nine rebounds to lead Hanover while Cam Freeman scored 14 points off the bench. C.J. Walls had 12 points and 10 rebounds and Coleman

SEE **BASKETBALL/PAGE B8**

David Campbell

Southwestern's Ashley Fulton (12) drives on Clarksville's Courtney Austin during Tuesday's game in Hanover.

Purdue jumps back to No. 1 in men's AP Top 25

Oklahoma, Tennessee, Kentucky climbs into top 10

BY AARON BEARD
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

Purdue's slide from No. 1 in The Associated Press Top 25 men's college basketball poll turned out to be brief.

The Boilermakers headlined Monday's latest poll for the second time this season after beating former No. 1 Arizona over the weekend. The Wildcats had spent two weeks at No. 1 after Purdue's loss to Northwestern ended the Boilermakers' stint at the top after one week.

Purdue received 48 of 62 first-place votes in the latest poll to jump from third with the Arizona win, which marked the program's first win against a No. 1 team in 23 years. It also marked the latest impressive nonconference win to a resume that already includes ranked teams in Gonzaga, Tennessee and Marquette.

Preseason No. 1 Kansas stayed at No. 2 with six first-place votes, while Houston moved up one spot to No. 3 and had the other eight votes. Arizona fell to fourth.

THE TOP TIER

UConn, Marquette, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Kentucky and Baylor rounded out the top 10.

Of that group, the Sooners are making their first appearance inside the top 10 since February 2021. And the Wildcats cracked the top 10 for the first time this season after beating North Carolina in the CBS Sports Classic.

RISING AND FALLING

Kentucky's five-spot rise marked the biggest jump of the week. Oklahoma and Tennessee were next with four spots to push inside the top 10, while No. 13 Illinois rose three spots. In all, 10 teams climbed from last week's poll.

No. 15 Gonzaga and No. 18 Clemson took the biggest tumbles, with each falling five spots after losses. Baylor, which lost in a blowout to Michigan State, and No. 12 Creighton were next by falling four spots. A total of seven teams slid from last week's rankings.

STATUS QUO

Six teams held their position from last week, including UConn, No. 19 Texas, No. 20 James Madison, No. 21 Duke and No. 22 Virginia.

WELCOME ABOARD

No. 23 Memphis and No. 25 Mississippi were the week's new additions.

The Tigers handed Clemson its first loss after a 9-0 start to jump into the

SEE **PURDUE/PAGE B8**

LOCAL SPORTS CALENDAR

Friday, Dec. 22

BASKETBALL

Carroll Co., Trimble Co. girls, Smoky Mountain Classic at Gatlinburg, Tenn., TBA
Southwestern boys vs. Christian Academy of Indiana, JCIT at Madison, 3 p.m.
Madison boys host Shawe, JCIT at Madison, 4:50 p.m.
Southwestern boys vs. Carroll Co., JCIT at Madison, 6:40 p.m.
Switzerland Co. boys at North Decatur, 7:30 p.m.
Madison boys host Trimble Co., JCIT at Madison, 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 23

BASKETBALL

Carroll Co. boys vs. Christian Academy of Indiana, JCIT at Madison, 11 a.m.
Shawe boys host Trimble Co., JCIT at Madison, 12:50 p.m.
Jefferson Co. Invite Tournament 5th Place, 2:40 p.m.
Jefferson Co. Invite Tournament 3rd Place, 4:30 p.m.
Jefferson Co. Invite Tournament Championship, 6:20 p.m.

WRESTLING

Madison girls at New Albany, 10 a.m.

Sunday, Dec. 24

No local events

Monday, Dec. 25

No local events

Tuesday, Dec. 26

No local events

Backup QB Browning has Bengals in playoff race

To make 4th consecutive start at Pittsburgh

BY MITCH STACY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CINCINNATI — Quarterback Jake Browning has the Bengals still in the AFC playoff race and his story is one of the most surprising in the NFL this season.

After spending the past four seasons on practice squads, the 27-year-old Browning was an underwhelming choice to lead the Bengals after franchise quarterback Joe Burrow was lost for the season with a wrist injury.

On Saturday, Browning won his third consecutive start, a wild, come-from-behind game that ended with Evan McPherson's 29-yard field goal in overtime for a 27-24 win.

Cincinnati (8-6) is still in the AFC playoff race as they prepare to face division rival Pittsburgh (7-7) on Saturday (TV: Live on NBA at 4:30 p.m.).

After Sunday, Cincinnati is in position for one of three AFC wild-card spots with three games to go.

That scenario seemed unlikely when Burrow was hurt on Nov. 16 and Cincinnati dropped to 5-6 with a 16-10 loss to the Steelers in Browning's first start a month ago.

Wins followed over playoff contenders Jacksonville, Indianapolis and the Vikings.

"We'll always believe," said receiver Tyler Boyd, who caught a 44-yard pass in overtime Saturday to get the Bengals into the red zone and set up McPherson's winner.

"Everyone knows we don't have Burrow," Boyd said. "Everybody doesn't think we can get it done. They think we're a one-hit wonder. They think we had one or two good games and will start to tank. But we know what we're capable of. We know what type of team that we have."

WHAT'S WORKING

The Bengals were down 17-3 after the third quarter against Minnesota. They scored three touchdowns in the fourth quarter, the last one tying the score at 24 with 39 seconds left to force OT.

Browning threw for 184 yards and two touchdowns in the fourth quarter and overtime, becoming the fifth QB in the past two years to throw for at least that many yards and two or more scores after the third quarter.

"It was a rollercoaster," coach Zac Taylor said. "That's like the season, a little bit. You have to be able to stay composed and not panic. Just like when you're down in the season, when you're down in this game, there's no fear."

WHAT NEEDS HELP

The Cincinnati defense struggled to stop a Minnesota offense led by a quarterback in his first start and a backup running back. QB Nick Mullens threw for 303 yards and two touchdowns to Jordan Addison. Tight end T.J. Hockenson was open in the middle of the field way too often. Second-year Vikings running back Ty Chandler ran for a career-high 132 yards with a touchdown.

STOCK UP

Tee Higgins made one of the best catches of the season, and it couldn't have come at a better time. With Cincinnati trailing 24-17 with under a minute left in regulation, Browning was chased out of the pocket and threw toward the right corner. Higgins, who had reached the end zone, ran up to the 1, jumped up to grab the pass and twisted his body to reach the end zone as cornerback Akayleb Evans tried to throw him out of bounds.

STOCK DOWN

RB Chase Brown had 23 yards on seven carries and caught three passes for 28 yards. More was expected of the rookie after his electrifying 54-yard catch-and-run for a touchdown the previous week against the Colts.

INJURIES

It was a costly win for Cincinnati. The team's best run stopper, defensive tackle DJ Reader, was lost for the season with a torn quad tendon, as was backup CB DJ Ivey, who tore his ACL. WR Ja'Marr Chase is day to day with a sprained shoulder.

KEY NUMBER

424 — Yards allowed by the Bengals, the most since a 30-27 loss to Houston on Nov. 12.

NEXT STEPS

Try to win in Pittsburgh two days before Christmas. The Bengals finish the regular season at Kansas City and at home against AFC North rival Cleveland.

Breakout backup players keeping Colts in playoff hunt

BY MICHAEL MAROT
ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS — Indianapolis Colts starting quarterback Anthony Richardson hasn't played since Week 5.

Jonathan Taylor, the 2021 NFL rushing champ, missed his third straight game Saturday.

So when the Colts lost their leading rusher, Zack Moss, and leading receiver, Michael Pittman Jr., in the span of three second-quarter offensive plays, they didn't fret. They excelled.

Short-handed Indy erased a 13-0 deficit by scoring the final 30 points to keep its hold on the AFC's No. 7 seed for one more week and eventually move into a three-way tie for the AFC South lead.

With the playing status of Taylor (right thumb surgery), Pittman (concussion protocol) and Moss (right arm) still unclear, Indy may need similar efforts from its backups to beat Atlanta on Sunday (**TV:** Live on FOX at 1 p.m.).

"I had a chance to talk to him (Saturday) night. He's doing good," coach Shane Steichen said Sunday, referring to Pittman. "We will see how the week progresses. Same with Zack, he's doing all right."

Steichen and Colts players have been reluctant to criticize the hits that knocked out Moss and Pittman, both of which drew personal foul penalties.

Quarterback Gardner Minshew even seemed to partially blame himself for the scariest play of the game.

Steelers safety Demontae Kazee launched himself into the diving, unprotected Pittman who remained on the ground for several minutes as players from both teams took to a knee before Pittman walked off the field.

Kazee was ejected from the game and has been suspended for the rest of this season.

"I wish I wouldn't have put Pitt in that position, honestly," Minshew said. "So you always try to do your best to protect your guys, but sometimes unfortunate things just happen in the game."

Whether Kazee's hit or Mykal Walker's horse-collar tackle on Moss as he fought his way to a 16-yard TD catch, were intentional didn't matter to the Colts (8-6). They've been playing this way all season.

Moss emerged as one of the NFL's top rushers when Taylor opened the season on the physically unable to perform list. Minshew has proven himself to be one of the NFL's most capable backup quarterbacks.

Center Wesley French and rookie tackle Blake Freeland have been solid when asked to replace injured starters Ryan Kelly and Braden Smith.

Even linebacker Ronnie Harrison Jr. has two interceptions, including a pick-6, since stepping in following the release of three-time All-Pro linebacker Shaquille Leonard.

On Saturday, Trey Sermon, Tyler Goodson and D.J. Montgomery — who spent most of this season on the practice squad — added their names to the growing list.

And to make the playoffs for the first time since 2020, Indy may need to keep playing this way for three more weeks.

"Guys have to step up and go make plays when their number is called," Steichen said. "You never know when that's going to happen. Obviously, (Saturday) was that day for those guys and they made the most of it."

WHAT'S WORKING

Minshew. Steichen saw what Minshew could do when they worked together in Philadelphia the previous two seasons, and the backup QB has been worth every penny. He's matched a career high in wins (six) and tied his career high with three TD passes Saturday.

WHAT NEEDS HELP

Kicking. Matt Gay is the league's highest-paid kicker and early this season, he played like it — making his first six field-goal attempts, four from 50 or more yards. But Gay missed two field goals against the Steelers, is 10 of his past 15 and has at least one miss in four of the Colts' past five games. Pittsburgh also blocked a punt.

STOCK UP

Sermon and Goodson. Sermon went into Week 15 with 11 carries this season, Goodson had none. They sure didn't play like backups. Sermon logged 17 carries and 88 yards on the same field he rushed for an Ohio State-record 331 yards three years earlier. Goodson rushed 11 times for 69 yards.

STOCK DOWN

WR Josh Downs. From Weeks 5-11, the former North Carolina star looked like a breakout rookie. Over the past three weeks, though, his productivity has decreased. He has nine receptions for 65 yards during the span, including three catches for 19 yards last weekend.

INJURIES

In addition to Pittman, Moss and Taylor, the Colts remain hopeful Smith can return from a knee injury after missing the past two games.

KEY NUMBER

1 — The Colts are tied with defending AFC South champ Jacksonville and surprising Houston for the division lead and a winning record in Steichen's first season as a head coach.

NEXT STEPS

Getting Taylor back this week, as the Colts were hoping by not putting him on injured reserve, would be a big boost. But the loss at Cincinnati and the slow start against Pittsburgh have raised more questions about the defense than the offense.

If Indy is going to make the playoffs, the defense needs to be more consistent.

Colts suspend McKenzie for conduct detrimental to team

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indianapolis Colts suspended receiver-punt returner Isaiah McKenzie and cornerback Tony Brown for the final three regular-season games because of conduct detrimental to the team.

Team officials did not provide specifics about what occurred as it made the announcement Tuesday.

Both players made their greatest impact this season on special teams, and both were inactive for Saturday's game against Pittsburgh.

In a corresponding move, the Colts promoted running back Tyler Goodson from the practice squad back to the active roster. Goodson had his first carries of the season in Saturday's 30-13 victory and finished with 11 rushes for 69 yards.

The Colts (8-6) could need ball-carriers this week. Jonathan Taylor has missed Indy's last three games after having surgery on his right thumb and his replacement, Zack Moss, had only four carries against the Steelers before hurting the right arm that he broke during the preseason.

Coach Shane Steichen has not said whether Taylor or Moss is expected to play Sunday at Atlanta (6-8).

AP SPORTS STORY OF THE YEAR

Realignment, demise of Pac-12 usher in new era

BY RALPH D. RUSSO
AP COLLEGE FOOTBALL WRITER

Oregon and Washington pledged to join the Big Ten, where Southern California and UCLA had already committed. Arizona, Arizona State, Colorado and Utah fled for the Big 12. Stanford and California found a life line in the Atlantic Coast Conference, a league with all its football-playing members currently in the Eastern time zone.

The commissioners from three of the remaining power conferences in college sports appeared together in a crowded convention center ballroom and were asked to ponder what was wrought by three tumultuous years of realignment that culminated in the destruction of a 108-year-old institution.

"Obviously, not happy about the ultimate outcome to the Pac-12, but I'm in this position to give us the best options and future possible and we took advantage of the moment." Big 12 Commissioner Brett Yormark explained during the session in Las Vegas.

That moment came over a span of six weeks this past summer. The Pac-12 was ripped apart and redistributed by its competitors, regardless of geography. The stunning demolition, set in motion a year earlier, was accelerated when the Pac-12 couldn't secure a media rights deal to match its competitors.

The redrawing of the college sports map and demise of the Pac-12, a conference that claims the most NCAA championships and a legacy that includes the likes of Jackie Robinson, Bill Walton, Aaron Rodgers, Katie Ledecky, Tiger Woods and Cheryl Miller, made conference realignment The Associated Press Sports Story of the Year.

All of the moves by 2023 — and it was hard to keep count — will take effect in 2024, which will go down as one of the most transformative in the history of college athletics.

Oregon and Washington pledged to join the Big Ten, where Southern California and UCLA had already committed. Arizona, Arizona State, Colorado and Utah fled for the Big 12. Stanford and California found a life line in the Atlantic Coast Conference, a league with all its football-playing members currently in the Eastern time zone.

The four new West Coast Big Ten schools will be no closer than 1,500 miles from any of their new conference rivals.

Along with Texas and Oklahoma relocating from the Big 12 to the Southeastern Conference, all will join their new leagues before the start of next college football season.

"These are seismic moves," former Fox Sports executive Bob Thompson said.

The end of the Pac-12 ushered in the super conference era and laid bare the bottom line of college sports.

"I don't know what the institutions that are involved will say was the motivation, but it was money in every case," former Big 12 Commissioner Bob Bowlsby said.

Next year, the Big Ten will have 18 schools, the Big 12 and SEC 16 each and the ACC 17 football-playing members, including SMU in Dallas. The Pac-12 is likely to survive with Oregon State and Washington State rebuilding the conference, but it will no longer reside among college sports' super wealthy.

The Power Five is now a Power Four, but within that there is a Big Two. The Big Ten and SEC now have media rights deals that will allow them to provide yearly payouts to their members of upwards of $70 million. The ACC and Big 12 are hoping to stay within $30 million per year per school of those stratospheric numbers.

This all comes as the prospect of major college football players being directly paid by schools becomes more realistic. Just two weeks ago, NCAA President Charlie Baker proposed a plan to do exactly that.

"How much of the realignment moves are to position these universities for better success in the NIL world?" Thompson asked.

The frantic culmination of this round of realignment came from late July to early September, but the first domino was tipped in the summer of 2021 when it was revealed that Texas and Oklahoma were bolting the Big 12 for the SEC. That, said ACC Commissioner Jim Phillips, cleared the decks for schools eager to "take advantage of free agency."

When the best the Pac-12 could do was a partnership with Apple that had a smaller annual guarantee than those of the ACC and Big 12, it sent schools shopping for a better deal.

"I don't know that the four members that came to the Big 12 were moving toward something as much as they were trying to ensure that they didn't go down with the ship, relative to the Pac-12," Bowlsby said.

Conference realignment has been a part of college sports for about as long as games have been game on campus, primarily driven by schools and leagues jockeying for prestige, better competition and more robust revenue streams.

The most recent round of realignment felt more predatory. Survival for the fittest.

"In short, I think it was unnecessary," Bowlsby said. "I don't I don't think the college athletics ecosystem is better with the absence of the Pac-12."

The top of college sports should be heading into a few years of relative peace when it comes to realignment. Each of the remaining power conferences is locked into a media rights deal through at least the 2029-30 school year.

Thompson said he believes the future of major college football could be a super league similar to what has been proposed in European soccer.

"So, let's say it's the top 40 brands or the top whatever brands in football only, they go off and they do the super league and everything else stays at the conference level," Thompson said. "People may decide that maybe that regionality we had a while ago wasn't a bad thing for all the other sports."

A new competitive reality is also coming to college football and it could be harsh for some schools.

"I think there are some in the larger conferences that will clearly be marginalized, and the money won't be worth it because they'll there'll be traditional losers on a regular basis," Bowlsby said. "And I think there will institutions that have been traditional winners that will be turn into institutions that are playing in the middle of the pack most of the time, that's going to be a big adjustment."

Pacers snap 4-game skid against Hornets

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS — Buddy Hield scored 25 points, Tyrese Haliburton had 19 points and 13 assists and the Indiana Pacers snapped a four-game losing streak, routing the Charlotte Hornets 144-113 on Wednesday night behind 61% shooting.

"Our offense looked better," Haliburton said. "We got a lot of good looks. I thought we went back to the basics on a lot of stuff (in practice), and it helped. A good win for us. Just figured out a way to win."

The Pacers made 28 of 30 free throws and led by 33. Aaron Nesmith added 19 points, Myles Turner had 18, Bennedict Mathurin 14 and Jalen Smith and Isaiah Jackson 10 apiece. T.J. McConnell had nine points, nine assists and five rebounds.

Terry Rozier had 25 points, nine rebounds and seven assists for Charlotte, and rookie Brandon Miller added 21 points and six rebounds. The Hornets shot 47% from the field, making only eight 3-pointers to the Pacers' 18.

"It just gets frustrating when they're scoring like that," Charlotte coach Steve Clifford said. "We don't have a lot of room for error. Our guys know that. Weak fouls, second-chance points, not getting matched up. It takes its toll."

Playing without starting point guard LaMelo Ball and center Mark Williams, the Hornets dropped their sixth in a row to fall to 7-19. Ball, averaging 24.7 points, 8.2 assists and 5.5 rebounds, missed his 11th straight game because of a sprained right ankle. Williams, averaging 12.7 points and 9.7 rebounds, sat out his sixth in a row due to a back contusion.

Indiana led 31-29 at the end of the first quarter, 71-60 at halftime and 107-86 entering the final period. Charlotte never led by more than two.

"Winning cures a lot," Hield said. "Everybody's relieved. Coming off the high of the in-season tournament, we rode the storm (out). (Thursday night at Memphis) we have another storm to weather. Ja Morant is back."

Penn State hires Allen as defensive coordinator

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Coach Tom Allen was fired last month by Indiana after seven years as head coach. The 53-year-old Indiana native went 33-49 with the Hoosiers, including 3-9 this season. He led Indiana to bowl games in 2016, '19 and '20.

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. — Penn State has hired former Indiana coach Tom Allen as defensive coordinator.

Nittany Lions coach James Franklin announced the hiring on Tuesday to replace Manny Diaz, who left to take over the Duke program.

"I have always had a ton of respect for Tom Allen, and we are excited to welcome him to our staff," Franklin said in the school's news release. "I've enjoyed following his coaching career and his experience as a head coach and defensive play caller will bring tremendous value to our program.

"Coach Allen has led aggressive and attacking style defenses that will complement what we have already established."

Allen was fired last month by Indiana after seven years as head coach. The 53-year-old Indiana native went 33-49 with the Hoosiers, including 3-9 this season. He led Indiana to bowl games in 2016, '19 and '20.

"To be trusted to join this storied program has me fired up, and I can't wait to get to work alongside this coaching staff, these student-athletes and to immerse myself in the Happy Valley community," Allen said.

He was defensive coordinator at South Florida and Indiana before being promoted to head coach of the Hoosiers in 2017.

Franklin had already hired offensive coordinator Andy Kotelnicki away from Kansas.

No. 10 Penn State (10-2) faces No. 11 Mississippi (10-2) in the Peach Bowl on Dec. 30.

Giants acquire outfielder TJ Hopkins from Reds

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO — Outfielder TJ Hopkins was acquired by the San Francisco Giants from the Cincinnati Reds on Tuesday for a player to be named or cash.

Hopkins, who turns 27 on Jan. 16, was designated for assignment Thursday when the Reds cleared a roster spot after agreeing to a contract with outfielder Austin Wynns.

Hopkins made his major league debut with the Reds on June 3, drawing a ninth-inning, bases-loaded walk from Milwaukee's Devin Williams in his first plate appearance. He hit .171 (7 for 41) with one RBI in 25 games, singling off the Brewers' Julio Teheran for his first hit on June 5.

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FRIDAY EVENING

	Jefferson Switzerland	Trimble/ Carroll	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM
3 WAVE	6	2	WAV..	NBCN..	WAV..	News	Dolly Parton's Christmas of Ma...				Dateline (N)		WAV..
4 WTTV	4		CBS4..	CBSN..	BigBa..	Sheldon	Home (N)		Fit for Christmas ('22)				CBS4..
5 WLWT	2		News	NBCN..	WLWT	Hollyw..	Dolly Parton's Christmas of Ma...				Dateline (N)		News
8 WISH	12		News (N)		Inside..	ET (N)	Penn (N)		Reindeer		News (N)		News
9 WCPO	23		News	World..	News	Extra	S. Claus		20/20 (N)				News
11 WHAS	11	4	News	World..	ET (N)	Inside..	S. Claus		20/20 (N)				News
15 WKPC	13		Ameri..	Edition	NewsHour (N)		Comm..	Week	Season-Light			Karamu	BBCN..
19 WXIX	10		FOX19	FOX19	Wheel	Jeopar..	Fri. Night SmackDown (N)				FOX19 (N)		FOX19
32 WLKY	5	5	News	CBSN..	Wheel	Jeopar..	Home (N)		Fit for Christmas ('22)				News
34 WBKI	7	7	Neighb..	House..	Sheldon	BigBa..	Penn (N)		Reindeer		BigBa..	Sheldon	LastM..
41 WDRB	8	9	WDR..	News	FamFe..	FamFe..	Fri. Night SmackDown (N)				WDRB News		WDR..
A&E	28	36	The First 48		The First 48		The First 48		The First 48		The First 48		First48
AMC	29	26	(4:45) National ...		★★★★ The Polar Express ('04)				★★★★ Elf ('03) Will Ferrell.				Movie
COM	45	59	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office
DISC	31	38	Gold Rush		Gold Rush		Gold Rush (N)		(:10) Sea Gold "Endgame" (N)				GoldR..
DISN	25	29	Jessie	Good Luck Charlie, It'...			The Naughty Nine			Bunk'd	Bunk'd	Big City	Big City
ESPN	32	44	SportC..	College Football							NBA Basketball		
FREE	18	40	(5:15) Dr. Seus...		(:15) ★★★★ The Santa Clause ('94)					(:25) ★★ The Santa Clause 2 ('02)			
FX	40	28	(5:30) ★★★★ Deadpool ('16)				★★★★ Deadpool 2 ('18) Ryan Reynolds.				Venom: Let ...		
HBO	201	17	(5:45) Gi..	(:45) Daniel			★★ Man on Fire ('04) Denzel Washington.				Murder, Boston		
MAX	270	73	(:20) ★★ Greta ('18)				★★ Law Abiding Citizen			(:50) ★★ Jennifer's Body ('09)			
NEWSNTN	20	20	Elizabeth (N)		On Balance (N)		Cuomo (N)		Dan Abrams		Banfield (N)		Cuomo
PARMT	35	41	(5:30) ★★★★ The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers ('02)							Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey			
SHOW	221	16	★★ The Counselor ('13)				Football France		★★ Golda ('23) (P)			(:45) Lesson	
TMC	233	74	(5:50) ★★ The Best Offer ('13)				★★★★ Gone Baby Gone ('07)				★★ Homefront ('13)		
TNT	27	43	(4:00) Wonder ...		★★ Aquaman ('18) Amber Heard, Jason Momoa.						Rampage (N)		Movie
USA	26	33	(5:30) Boss Baby: Famil...		(:55) The Croods: A New Age					(:50) Dolittle ('20) (P)			

SATURDAY EVENING

	Jefferson Switzerland	Trimble/ Carroll	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM
3 WAVE	6	2	(4:30) NFL Football				(:05) Ext..	Night	(:05) Saturday Night Live				WAV..
4 WTTV	4		CBS4..	CBSN..	Sheldon	Sheldon	When Christmas Was Young				48 Hours (N)		CBS4..
5 WLWT	2		(4:30) NFL Football				(:05) Ext..	Night	(:05) Saturday Night Live				News
8 WISH	12		News	FamFe..	The Rookie		Christmas-The Chosen (N)				News (N)		News
9 WCPO	23		(3:30) Football		TBA	College Football							News
11 WHAS	11	4	(3:30) Football		TBA	College Football							News
15 WKPC	13		Antiques		TimFa..	RedGr..	Kentuc..	Ky.Afi..	Lavender Hill Mob			RealBe..	Austin
19 WXIX	10		(5:00) A Perfec...		TrueC..	Tip-Off	College Basketball				FOX19 (N)		Shazam
32 WLKY	5	5	WLK..	CBSN..	Wheel	Jeopar..	When Christmas Was Young				48 Hours (N)		News
34 WBKI	7	7	JudgeJ..	JudgeJ..	TwoM..	TwoM..	Christmas-The Chosen (N)				The Rookie		9-1-1
41 WDRB	8	9	(5:00) Santa St...		Griffith	Tip-Off	College Basketball				WDRB News		Shazam
A&E	28	36	Neighb..	Neighb..	Neighb..	Neighb..	Neighb..	Neighb..	Neighb..	Neighb..	Buddy (N)		Neighb..
AMC	29	26	(5:00) Polar Ex...		★★★★ Elf ('03) Will Ferrell.				National Lampoon's Christmas ...				Movie
COM	45	59	Dodgeball: A True Underdog St...				★★★ We're the Millers ('13)					Dodgeball: A ...	
DISC	31	38	Expedition		Expedition		Expedition		Expedition		Expedition		Expedi..
DISN	25	29	Bluey	Bluey / Mickey's Once ...			Mickey's Twi...		BigCity	Ladyb..	Kiff	Phineas	Raven
ESPN	32	44	(3:30) Football		College Football							College Football	
FREE	18	40	(5:10) ★★★★ Home Alone				(:40) Home Alone 2: Lost in New York				Dr. Seuss' How the Gri...		
FX	40	28	(5:00) Star Wars: Empire Strikes ...				★★★★ Star Wars: Return of the Jedi ('83)						Movie
HBO	201	17	(5:45) Maze Runner: Scorch Trials				★★★★ Mad Max: Fury Road ('15)				(:05) Gilded		Movie
MAX	270	73	Movie	★★★★ Lucy ('14)			★★★ Drive Angry ('11)			(:45) ★★★ Antitrust ('01)			
NEWSNTN	20	20	Blue Bloods		NewsNation (N)		NewsNation (N)		NewsNation (N)		NewsNation		NewsN..
PARMT	35	41	(4:00) Lord of the Rings: Two To...				★★★★ The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King ('03)						
SHOW	221	16	Tammy		Tammy		Tammy		★★★ Beau Is Afraid ('23) (P)				
TMC	233	74	(:20) Earth Mama ('23) (P)				B...A... ('22)			Fire Island ('23)			Movie
TNT	27	43	(5:45) ★★★ Office Christmas Party				Collision (N) (SF) (Live)				★★★ Horrible Bosses		
USA	26	33	Movie	(:50) ★★★★ Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets ('02)							Harry Potter & the Pri...		

SUNDAY EVENING

	Jefferson Switzerland	Trimble/ Carroll	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM
3 WAVE	6	2	WAV..	NBCN..	5 More	Night	★★★★★ It's a Wonderful Life ('46) James Stewart.						WAV..
4 WTTV	4		(4:00) Football		60 Minutes (N)		Lingo (N)		Lotería (N)		CSI: Vegas		CBS4..
5 WLWT	2		News	NBCN..	5 More	Night	★★★★★ It's a Wonderful Life ('46) James Stewart.						News
8 WISH	12		News	Retire..	Penn & Teller		The Chosen "Sustenance" (N) (SF)				News	Sports	News
9 WCPO	23		News	World..	Fun Videos		★★★★ Home Alone ('90)				Celebrity Fam		News
11 WHAS	11	4	World..	News	Fun Videos		★★★★ Home Alone ('90)				Celebrity Fam		News
15 WKPC	13		Last/..	KeepUp	Christmas		Creatures		Creatures		Creatures		Summ..
19 WXIX	10		(4:25) NFL Football			The OT	Simpso..	Krapo..	House	Family..	FOX19 (N)		FOX19
32 WLKY	5	5	CBSN..	WLK..	60 Minutes (N)		Lingo (N)		Lotería (N)		CSI: Vegas		News
34 WBKI	7	7	BigBa..	BigBa..	Penn & Teller		The Chosen "Sustenance" (N) (SF)				Good Dr		ModF..
41 WDRB	8	9	(4:25) NFL Football			The OT	Simpso..	Krapo..	House	Family..	WDRB News		Worry
A&E	28	36	★★★ London Has Fallen ('16)				★★★ Olympus Has Fallen ('13)					The Equalizer	
AMC	29	26	(5:00) Christm...		National Lampoon's Christmas ...				(:15) ★★★★ Elf ('03) Will Ferrell.				Movie
COM	45	59	(4:30) Other G...		★★★ Daddy's Home ('15)				★★★★ The Other Guys ('10) Will Ferrell.				
DISC	31	38	Homestead Rescue (N)				Homestead (N)		Homestead Rescue				Homes..
DISN	25	29	Big City	Big City	Kiff	Prep &	The Naughty Nine			Villains	Villains	Bunk'd	Hailey
ESPN	32	44	UFC (N)		SportCtr (N)		SportCtr (N)		College Basketball				SportC..
FREE	18	40	(5:35) R..	(:40) Fr..	(:15) ★★★★ The Santa Clause ('94)					(:25) ★★★ The Santa Clause 2 ('02)			
FX	40	28	(4:00) Avenger...		★★★★ Avengers: Endgame ('19) Chris Evans, Robert Downey Jr..								Movie
HBO	201	17	(5:00) Bourne ...		The Gilded Age		★★★★ Mad Max: Fury Road ('15)				(:05) Edge of Tomorrow		
MAX	270	73	(:20) ★★★★ Ingrid Goes West ('17)				★★★★ Don Jon ('13)			★★★★ Scary Movie			Movie
NEWSNTN	20	20	Blue Bloods		NewsNation (N)		NewsNation (N)		NewsNation (N)		NewsNation		NewsN..
PARMT	35	41	(5:05) Indiana Jones & the Last C...				★★★★★ Raiders of the Lost Ark ('81)					Indiana Jone...	
SHOW	221	16	Dexter		Dexter		Mayor of (N)		Curse	(:45) Thriller 40			Curse
TMC	233	74	★★★★ The Host ('06)				★★★★ Train to Busan ('16)				Everything Everywher...		
TNT	27	43	Movie	(:45) ★★★★★ The Wizard of Oz ('39)					★★★★★ A Christmas Story ('83)				Movie
USA	26	33	(5:00) Harry Potter & the Half-Blood Prince				Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1						

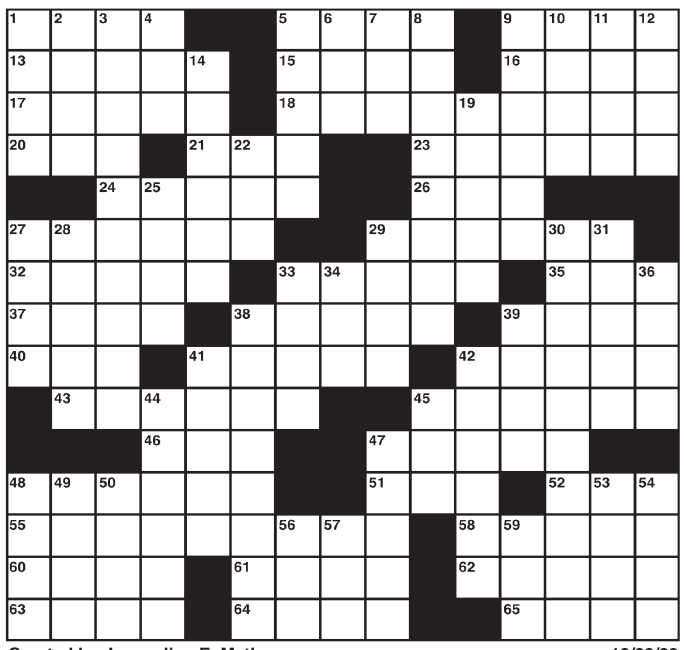
MONDAY EVENING

	Jefferson Switzerland	Trimble/ Carroll	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM
3 WAVE	6	2	WAV..	NBCN..	Christmas		Grinch	Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas					WAV..
4 WTTV	4		CBS4..	CBSN..	BigBa..	Sheldon	Price Is Right		Mariah Carey				CBS4..
5 WLWT	2		News	NBCN..	WLWT	Hollyw..	Grinch	Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas					News
8 WISH	12		News (N)		Inside..	ET (N)	The Waltons' Homecoming				News (N)		News
9 WCPO	23		(5:00) NBA Basketball			Count..	Football Baltimore Ravens at San Francisco 49ers						Postga..
11 WHAS	11	4	(5:00) NBA Basketball			Count..	Football Baltimore Ravens at San Francisco 49ers						News
15 WKPC	13		Ameri..	Edition	NewsHour (N)		Call the Midwife (N)			Call the Midwife			BBCN..
19 WXIX	10		(4:30) NFL Football			Postga..	Floor / (:10) MasterChef				FOX19 (N)		FOX19
32 WLKY	5	5	News	CBSN..	Wheel	Jeopar..	Price Is Right		Mariah Carey				News
34 WBKI	7	7	Neighb..	House..	Sheldon	BigBa..	The Waltons' Homecoming				BigBa..	Sheldon	LastM..
41 WDRB	8	9	(4:30) NFL Football			Postga..	Floor / (:10) MasterChef				WDRB News		WDR..
A&E	28	36	Court..	Court..	Court..	Court..	Court..	Court..	Court..	Court..	Court..	Court..	Movie
AMC	29	26	(:15) ★★★★ Elf ('03) Will Ferrell.				National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation					★★★★ Elf ('03)	
COM	45	59	J. Dunham		J. Dunham		J. Dunham		J. Dunham		Jeff Dunham:		Movie
DISC	31	38	MythBusters		MythBusters		Caught!	Caught!	Caught!	Caught!	Caught!	Caught!	Contra..
DISN	25	29	Big City	Prep	The Naughty Nine			Villains	Raven's Home		Jessie		Stuck
ESPN	32	44	(5:00) NBA Basketball			NBA	NBA Basketball					NBA Basketball	
FREE	18	40	★★★★ Home Alone ('90) Macaulay Culkin.					★★★ Home Alone 2: Lost in New York					700Club
FX	40	28	★★★ Solo: A Star Wars Story ('18)						★★★★ Rogue One: A Star Wars Story				
HBO	201	17	(5:50) ★★★★ Good Will Hunting				★★★★ Barbie ('23)				★★★ Legally Blonde ('01)		
MAX	270	73	(5:55) ★★★★ Ghost ('90)				★★★ Across the Universe ('07)				(:15) ★★★ Evan Almighty		
NEWSNTN	20	20	Elizabeth (N)		On Balance (N)		Cuomo (N)		Dan Abrams		Banfield (N)		Cuomo
PARMT	35	41	(5:00) Yellowst.		Yellowstone		Yellowstone		Yellowstone		Yellowstone		Yellow..
SHOW	221	16	(5:30) ★★★★ The Fabelmans ('22)				(:05) The Curse		★★ Mafia Mamma ('23)			Wrath of Bec...	
TMC	233	74	(:05) Six Degrees of Separation				★★★★ American Hustle ('13) (P)				Florence Foster Jenkins		
TNT	27	43	(5:00) A Christ...		★★★★★ A Christmas Story ('83)				A Christmas Story Christmas				Movie
USA	26	33	(5:15) Fantastic Beasts: Secrets of ...				WWE Monday Night RAW (N)						Bar (N)

THE Daily Commuter Puzzle by Jacqueline E. Mathews

ACROSS
1 "__ Harry Met Sally…"; '89 film
5 Louts
9 Moreover
13 Witch's spells
15 Public ruckus
16 Washerful
17 Preach
18 Sleeper's world
20 Brillo competitor
21 Feasted on
23 Popular candy bar
24 More ashen-faced
26 On a __ with; equivalent to
27 Remained in a fretful state
29 Swiss convention city
32 Was incorrect
33 Melon casings
35 "What'll __"; Irving Berlin song
37 Try out for a part
38 Market price
39 Chew like a mouse
40 Nocturnal flier
41 Clark & Martin
42 Avoid
43 Candidates' face-off
45 Some new family members
46 __ mission; single-minded
47 Overly enthusiastic
48 Bedspring
51 Paid-for notices
52 AAA offering
55 Those living near the Louvre
58 __ branch; peace offering
60 "Cast your bread __ the waters…"
61 Run
62 "Don Quixote" or "Jane Eyre"
63 Mild oath
64 Urges
65 Put in the mail

DOWN
1 "Look __ talking!"
2 Rescuer
3 Try the patience of



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 12/22/23

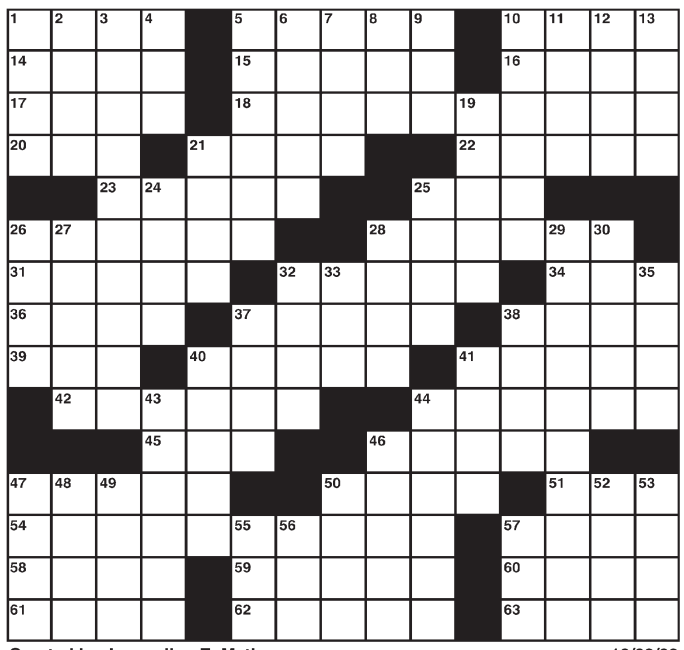
4 Tennis court divider
5 Law's partner, in phrase
6 Broadcast
7 Enemy
8 Headlong rush of animals
9 Attraction
10 Give to a borrower
11 Hourglass contents
12 Bookie's numbers
14 Made airtight
19 Complains
22 With 42 Down, "Cheers" actor
25 Thunderstruck
27 Belgrade native
28 "Don't __ on me"; old flag words
29 African antelopes
30 Spiteful
31 "Better late than never," e.g.
33 Marathon
34 Type; variety
36 Has bills to pay
38 Liveliness
39 Large Asian desert
41 Delany & Perino
42 See 22 Down
44 Ho-hum
45 Defective
47 Ship rigging supports
48 Tater
49 Dad
50 Remove wrinkles
53 GE appliance
54 Tuesday, for one
56 "We __ Family"; Sister Sledge song
57 Prefix for sense or fat
59 Spanish article

Today's Puzzle Solved

THE Daily Commuter Puzzle by Jacqueline E. Mathews

ACROSS
1 Cornfield invader's cries
5 Doesn't mention
10 As easy as falling __ log
14 Druggie
15 Daddy Warbucks' charge
16 Large hospital room
17 Unfair slant
18 Talkative
20 Red __; stinging insect
21 "Fiddlesticks!"
22 Actions
23 Doesn't ignore
25 Part of RPM
26 Takes an extra base
28 Explosions
31 Laurel's partner
32 Iron alloy
34 Have a snack
36 Poor box offering
37 Singer Ross
38 Short note
39 "Cry __ River"
40 Speaks to the deaf
41 Grand home
42 Grab
44 India's national tree
45 Reason for a 10th inning
46 Tendon
47 "__ and his money are soon parted"
50 __ up; admit guilt
51 Napoleon's title: abbr.
54 Bicycle part
57 Letter opener
58 Scored 100% on
59 Forgo voluntarily
60 "What's gotten __ you?"
61 Mrs. Truman
62 Long-legged bird
63 Recolors

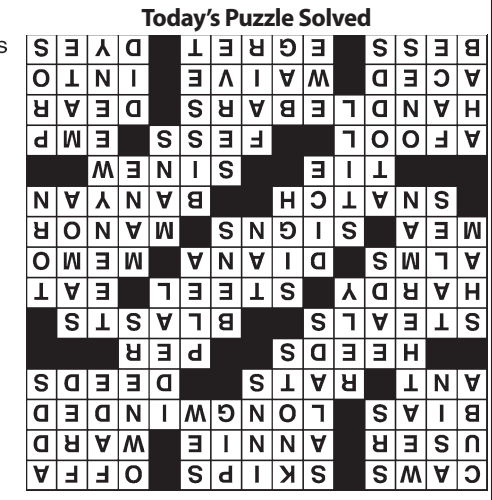
DOWN
1 Gloria Estefan's birthplace
2 Z __ zebra



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 12/23/23

3 Meteorologist
4 High school VIPs
5 Waldorf & Caesar
6 Macrame formations
7 Traveler's stops
8 Farm animal
9 Make clothes
10 Proprietors
11 Become dimmer
12 Pebbles' pop
13 Finds a total
19 Perfect
21 __ on; have faith in
24 Actor George
25 "Not guilty," for one
26 Pillow cover
27 "The Canterbury __"
28 Gazzara & Affleck
29 Very small
30 Pacific island group
32 Sound of relief
33 Light brown
35 Raggedy
37 Casino cubes
38 Horse's hair
40 Not moving
41 Le __; car race city
43 Not speaking to each other
44 Actress Jacqueline
46 Begin a tennis game
47 "Moby-Dick" captain
48 Meet head-on
49 Dollar bills
50 Equitable
52 Spouse
53 Paid athletes
55 Female animal
56 Sack
57 "The butler __ it"

Today's Puzzle Solved



Husband interferes with wife's friendship

Dear Amy: A while ago my wife got a cellphone call from "Martine," a very high-strung woman whom she regarded as a friend.

The reception was so poor that she asked Martine if they could talk when she got home. Instead of agreeing, Martine exploded in hysterical anger, screaming that the 40-year friendship was over.

This extreme and illogical overreaction left my wife so depressed that I finally wrote to Martine on my own initiative, asking what kind of person she was who would treat a friend in such a shabby and insulting manner. I added that I was writing without my wife's knowledge or permission (which she wouldn't have given), but seeing the effect of her rage on my wife, I regarded it as my business, as well as hers.

Martine flew into another tantrum, but instead of directing it at me, she attacked my wife, who had nothing whatsoever to do with my writing the letter.

Martine seemed to be determined to hurt her for no reason, or maybe she was deflecting. I say good riddance, and my wife seems philosophical about it, but the so-called "friendship" is clearly over.

Initially, my wife was not happy with my choice to contact Martine, but now she seems more or less behind it. We agreed to ask for your views on my choice. Your thoughts?

— Protective Husband

AMY DICKINSON
ASK AMY

Dear Protective: Your wife seems to have accepted your choice, as well as the consequences that have flowed from it, so asking for my opinion after the fact really puts me in the position of being an armchair referee.

Your wife's relationships are hers to manage. Her feelings and actions are her responsibility. She reacted to "Martine's" behavior by becoming sad and depressed. After some time had passed, she might have chosen to reach out to her in her own way and using her own words. She might have expressed some worry about Martine's health or mental health. Or she might have expressed some anger and ended the friendship — on her own terms. You've denied your wife these choices. At the very least, you could have told her how you were feeling and let her know that you intended to react. You didn't do that because you knew she would disagree with you, and so you went behind her back. Your wife might feel like she is standing between two angry people who don't hear her or respect her.

I assume that she is now threading the needle; appreciating your loyalty to her, understanding your protective behavior regarding Martine, and accepting the fact that, at this point, she can't do anything about either one of you.

Siblings ponder obligation to former stepmother

Dear Amy: Many years ago, my father married a woman 30 years his junior. "Sharon" is only two years older than I am. She is younger than my older sisters.

I was not in favor of the marriage, but Dad apparently was happy.

Sharon has a brash personality, a grating voice and is very self-centered.

My siblings and I tolerated her for our father's sake, and she was "Grandma Sharon" to our kids (they never had any children together).

Our father died over a decade ago; a couple of years later, Sharon had a relationship with another older man, who has also since died.

Sharon continues to maintain contact with our kids, who now have young children of their own.

When Dad was alive, she hosted an annual holiday gathering, and even though he has passed, she continues to carry on the tradition.

My older siblings and I believe that carrying on this tradition with our family members has run its course, and we are not interested in participating.

Our children, however, relish in the lavish gifts Sharon provides and continue to attend — even going so far as to "guilt" her into it when she has expressed her desire to end it. (My opinion is that she enjoys the attention.)

Over 10 years after our father's death, is there any obligation for his children (myself and my siblings) to have a relationship with her? She does have siblings, nieces and nephews in her life.

Are we being selfish in not wanting to attend the annual holiday gathering?

Other than being married to our father, she's not really "family," and we really don't care to continue a relationship.

My siblings and I are wondering how to handle this.

— Tired

AMY DICKINSON
ASK AMY

Dear Tired: You and your siblings aren't obligated to spend time with "Sharon," but you really should have a word with your children. According to you, they "guilt" their grandmother into hosting a holiday gathering that she wants to stop hosting.

I assume it's too late to handle this year, but you might follow up later by asking Sharon if she wants to continue hosting. Does she feel pressured by the grandchildren? If so, then you could do everyone a favor by asking your (collective) kids to be more considerate of Sharon and for one of them to take over the holiday hosting themselves.

Pulling this obligation off of her plate might serve everyone's purposes.

SUDOKU

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		4				2		
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		8		1				6

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7	1	8	4	2	5	6	9	3
3	5	2	6	9	8	4	7	1
8	4	1	9	5	2	3	6	7
2	7	3	8	6	4	9	1	5
5	6	9	1	3	7	2	8	4
1	3	7	2	4	9	5	8	6
4	8	5	3	7	6	1	2	9
9	2	6	5	8	1	7	4	3

SUDOKU

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4	9	8	6	2	3	7	5	1
1	5	3	7	9	4	2	8	6
6	3	4	5	7	9	1	2	8
2	8	7	4	3	1	9	6	5
9	1	5	2	8	6	3	7	4

ASTROLOGY

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Something original or unique could catch your eye. You may be aware of the latest trends or can recognize excellent value for your money. The merriment of today might only be a preview of upcoming main attractions.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Twinkling lights can symbolize the stars in the sky. As you study the constellations of holiday décor, think about the people in your life. Make the effort to let them know what they mean to you when you can.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Plant seeds of good will, kindness or generosity and you could watch them blossom. Now may be the time to extend greetings or well wishes to distant relatives or friends you might seldom get the chance to see.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Simple solutions can light the way as the seasons change. You might not see an immediate shift, but critical balances may begin to change. Making a wish upon a star may help a dream feel more real for you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Do your best to take stock to be ready for holiday preparations and celebrations. You may need to take care of the essentials for entertaining friends or loved ones while you indulge in the fun.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Making someone happy could be as simple as bringing them their slippers or inviting them out for a nice dinner. Simple kindnesses let you remember joy on someone's face or blissful times shared.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Traditions can make you feel warm and fuzzy inside, but you could also be excited to welcome something new or untested. Unpredictable events or people might give you the chance to show off your versatility.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — You might stand out in a crowd. You could be the live wire at a gathering or the person who has the most attentive partner by your side. Try something new and different and you can expand your influence.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Take a deep breath and try to unwind. Demanding family members or obligations may require your patience or can-do spirit. Where there is a will there can be a way, but sometimes getting there can be stressful.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — For some, holidays can be challenging. For others, the holidays may be a time to relax and just be yourself without restriction. Do what you can to enjoy special times with special people.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Clipping coupons or turning off the lights when people leave the room is just being wise. Consider giving in to the urge to splurge on something that could trigger some romantic thoughts or happy feelings.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — You may have a stockpile of recipes stocked up from holidays gatherings past. Now could be a fun time to break them out and do some baking. You can work to keep traditions alive at home.

ASTROLOGY

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Your exuberance could help draw someone closer to you right now. There may be no task too big or errand too small for you to embrace. You could be dedicated to making everyone comfortable and happily spoiled.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Your winning ways could help soften someone's hardened heart. This may be an excellent time to make amends. Winning should not be the goal in your relationship, make compromises when needed.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Most worries or troubles could fade into the background if you are able to spend some quality time with friends or loved ones. Take the chance whenever you can to be with the people you love the most.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — It may be time to share and share alike. Enjoy some relaxation at cheerful social events where you can see some familiar faces. Impulsive spending sprees might put a strain on your budget but could add some extra merriment.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — You might get a flurry of popularity when you attend a social function. Seek out some personal pampering when possible. Romantic daydreams could come true without having to leave your home.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Being wrapped up in a cocoon of serenity with a special someone may have you joyously humming. You might not think completely alike, but you can be more in tune and accepting of each other's views or ideas.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Spend some quality time with your family or loved ones and create lasting memories. You may appreciate someone's kind words or thoughtful actions. There could be some sincere efforts to give you assistance later on.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — You can be your own light. The greatest gifts you may receive might not be in the packages, but in the gathering of those you love and the celebration of the season. Do your best to show them how much they mean to you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — The extra work you do and effort you put forth can allow you to spend cheerful hours with family and friends. The holiday gatherings could help take your mind off business matters or financial stresses.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Welcome those you love and be excited for the holiday celebrations winter brings. Do your best to put problems from the year aside for now and focus on making special memories with loved ones.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Do your best to put business concerns and thoughts of achieving your ambitions on the back burner for now. Your home and family may offer all the security you need; have a lovely holiday with those closest to you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — Your outlook on the holidays is influenced by your family of origin, going forward you make your own experiences. Take some time to create fond memories with old traditions or new ideas.

HALL

FROM **PAGE B1**

Hall has been woven into the fabric of Hanover College athletics, playing a significant role in the integration of Hanover's men's and women's athletic programs. She was named acting director of athletics in May 1998 before having the interim title removed in September of 1999 combining Hanover's men's and women's athletic departments for the first time. She became the College's first female administrator with oversight of all intercollegiate sports.

With Hall at the helm, the number of student-athletes on campus remains near 50% of the total student body, indoor and outdoor facilities have received major upgrades, health and wellness services have greatly expanded, and coaching, training and athletic performance staffs have increased in size. Hanover's athletic offerings have also continued to expand as well, with the addition of men's and women's lacrosse and men's and women's swimming in recent years.

While participation continues to thrive, so does success on the playing fields and in the classroom. Under Hall's oversight, Hanover has captured 89 conference regular-season and tournament championships, earned 44 national tournament appearances, three times earned the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference Commissioner's Cup, hosted three cross country national championship meets (2003, 2008, and 2013), and produced hundreds of all-conference and academic all-conference athletes and numerous all-Americans and academic all-Americans.

Prior to her role as director of athletics, Hall competed as an athlete on the Panthers' volleyball team and women's basketball squad. She earned a degree in history with a minor in physical education in 1982 before earning a Master's degree in 1987 from Indiana University Bloomington. In 1987, she returned to the Hanover campus community where she served as the head volleyball coach and assistant basketball coach.

As head volleyball coach, Hall became the winningest coach in program history with 217 wins from 1987-98. In addition to her coaching duties, she also served as intramural director in the early 1900s and helped start the College's women's golf team in 1993.

Earlier this year, on behalf of the Governor's office, Hall was awarded the prestigious The Sagamore of the Wabash Award.

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JEFFERSON COUNTY, INDIANA PLAN COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given that the Jefferson County, Indiana Plan Commission will meet on Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at 5:30 P.M., at the Surveyor's Office, 315 Jefferson St., Courthouse Annex Bldg., Madison, Indiana. BY ORDER OF THE JEFFERSON COUNTY, INDIANA PLAN COMMISSION. By: Lynette Anderson, Secretary, Jefferson County Plan Commission.

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Notice is hereby given that the Jefferson County, Indiana, Board of Zoning Appeals will meet Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at 5:00 o'clock, P.M., at the Surveyor's Office, 315 Jefferson St., Courthouse Annex Bldg., Madison, Indiana. The purpose of the meeting is elect 2024 officers and discuss vacancy seat on board. The Board of Zoning Appeals may consider any other business that comes before it at this date and time. BY ORDER OF THE JEFFERSON COUNTY, INDIANA, BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS. By: Lynette Anderson, Secretary, Jefferson County Board of Zoning Appeals

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LEGAL NOTICE
JEFFERSON COUNTY, INDIANA PLAN COMMISSION
and
JEFFERSON COUNTY, INDIANA, BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

Notice is hereby given that the Jefferson County, Indiana Plan Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a joint meeting on Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at 5:15 P.M., in the Jefferson County Courthouse Annex, Surveyor's Office, 315 Jefferson Street, Madison, IN. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss appointment of Pat Magrath as attorney for the Plan Commission & Board of Zoning Appeals and to approve the attorney agreement for the year 2024. BY ORDER OF THE JEFFERSON COUNTY, INDIANA, PLAN COMMISSION and BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS. By: Lynette M. Anderson, Secretary, Jefferson County Plan Commission & Board of Zoning Appeals

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NEED KNOWS NO SEASON

Signing day: Georgia has top class after 5-star flip

BY RALPH D. RUSSO
AP COLLEGE FOOTBALL WRITER

The early signing period in college football opened Wednesday with some five-star drama.

Georgia likely locked up the top recruiting class by flipping an in-state blue-chip player away from Florida State. The consensus No. 1 recruit in the country had Ohio State's Ryan Day literally sighing with relief, and then made the coach wait hours before officially becoming a Buckeye. Florida managed to hold on to a couple of five-stars amid a flurry of late de-commits.

Meanwhile, the long and winding recruitment of Dylan Raiola ended bright and early with the highly touted quarterback signing a national letter of intent with Nebraska, the school where his father was an All-American offensive lineman.

College football's early signing period, jammed into what has become an overloaded December calendar with postseason games and players transferring, has become the signing period.

"The schedule is not good. It's chaotic," Penn State coach James Franklin told reporters.

The big schools sign the bulk of their recruiting classes on the first day of the three-day early signing period. The traditional signing period in February is now more for schools lagging behind, maybe because of a coaching change, or those looking to add some finishing touches.

Almost all the best recruits will be off the board by the end of the week, most signing with schools they have been committed to for months — like Jeremiah Smith, a receiver from Florida considered the top recruit in this class. Smith was a long-time Ohio State commit, but that didn't stop in-state programs from continuing to pursue him.

Not until Smith slipped on an Ohio State cap at a signing day ceremony at his high school did he put an end to any doubt he might flip to a college closer to home, like Miami.

"I'll be taking my talents to THE Ohio State University," Smith said.

Day was holding his signing day news conference at the time. When he was told Smith had stayed true to the Buckeyes, the coach asked "Really?" and pretended as if his knees were buckling before letting out a deep breath.

The Buckeyes were vying with Georgia and Alabama for the No. 1 overall recruiting class.

"This is signing day and when you have really good players it's going to come down to the wire. That's how it goes," Day said.

Day was cautious about speaking about Smith before

SEE FLIP/PAGE B7

Jets' Rodgers activated but won't play again this season

BY DENNIS WASZAK JR.
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

FLORHAM PARK, N.J. — Aaron Rodgers will remain on the practice field to continue working on his return for the New York Jets — for next season.

The four-time NFL MVP was activated from the injured reserve list Wednesday, a move coach Robert Saleh said is merely the next step in Rodgers' rehabilitation from a torn left Achilles tendon.

The Jets had until Wednesday to activate Rodgers — whose 21-day practice window began Nov. 29 — or he would revert back to IR for the rest of the season.

Instead, Rodgers will be able to participate at practice as part of New York's 53-man roster. Players on IR can remain with the team but can't practice.

"We've got the roster flexibility with all the different things that have happened over the course of the last couple of weeks," Saleh said, referring to several other injuries suffered by Jets players. "It's all part of his rehab and just having him out on the football field is a plus for everybody. It's a plus for him, it's a plus for his teammates, so we're going to keep him on the 53."

The 40-year-old Rodgers said Tuesday on "The Pat McAfee Show" he's not yet 100% healthy and is still a few weeks away. He said if the Jets remained in the playoff hunt, he would have pushed to play Sunday against Washington, but New York was routed 30-0 and eliminated from postseason contention for the 13th straight year.

"He tried everything he could to get back," Saleh said. "And, you know, who knows if the circumstances were different? Get a couple of these wins, maybe we're having a different conversation. But I know he gave everything he could."

Rodgers reiterated his goal has been to play "at least two years," and he considered this season a "lost" year. So, he doesn't anticipate next season being his last in the NFL.

"I think he's going to play until his wheels fall off," Saleh said. "I don't think it's one, two. I think he'll go three, four, five, if he can. That's just my opinion."

Rodgers said during his appearance on "The Pat McAfee Show" that he has full faith in Saleh, general manager Joe Douglas and offensive coordinator Nathaniel Hackett, and the team needs to "reload" and not "rebuild" during the offseason.

"I appreciate it," Saleh said of Rodgers' endorsement. "He's here every day, and it's appreciated."

Rodgers had surgery two days after his injury and was attempting to make the fastest return from a torn Achilles tendon of any known professional athlete. The operation reportedly included a "speed bridge" — an internal brace on the Achilles tendon — procedure that helps expedite the healing process.

He has made remarkable strides in his recovery, and Saleh even said last Friday the quarterback "looks normal" during his limited practice activities. Rodgers has been participating in individual and 7-on-7 drills while also taking snaps from under center and jogging, but he hasn't yet done 11-on-11 team drills. The Jets had only a walkthrough practice Wednesday and Rodgers was estimated as a non-participant on the injury report.

Rodgers said Tuesday he would try to ramp things up this week if the Jets remained in contention, but now without a timetable, "obviously we can be as smart as we need to be."

Meanwhile, quarterback Zach Wilson remains in the concussion protocol and didn't participate in the walkthrough but is improving, according to Saleh. If Wilson can't play Sunday, Trevor Siemian would start in his place. Brett Rypien also is on the roster.

"At this point in my career, especially, any chance I get to play is awesome," the 31-year-old said. "If it happens, I'll be ready. If not, hoping Zach's coming back if he feels all right."

NOTES: FB Nick Bawden, who has one of the Jets' four touchdown runs this season, was released to make room on the roster for Rodgers. ... DL John Franklin-Myers (hip) also didn't practice during the walkthrough.

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Madison Consolidated Schools ("Applicant") is seeking sealed bids for a project to 1) supply network equipment, and 2) supply uninterruptible power supply equipment at its eligible locations. Bidders are advised that this project will be contingent upon the successful obtaining of Category 2 E-Rate funding, and the contract agreement between the district and the successful bidder must recognize that contingency.

Applicant seeks an agreement that allows it to work with the selected vendor(s) to adjust quantities and/or scale back or cancel the project entirely as needed based upon funding availability and/or the best interests of Applicant.

All cost proposals must reflect the LCP (Lowest Corresponding Price), GSA pricing, and any available governmental unit discounts including existing state purchasing agreements or contracts. Any proposal referencing an existing state purchasing agreement or contract must include that information in the proposal. Bid prices must be complete for the services and equipment proposed and shall include all associated costs, even if the amounts are estimates based upon current applicable taxes, surcharges, or fees. The Applicant requires that the selected vendor be willing to utilize the E-Rate SPI form of invoicing (discounted invoices).

PROJECT SCOPE

OPTIONS TO BE BID

The Applicant is seeking multiple options for bids. Respondents may bid on any or all options.

OPTION 1: NETWORK SWITCHING EQUIPMENT

Applicant seeks eligible network switching equipment as outlined in Appendix A. Equipment shall be new, factory-sealed equipment currently available from the manufacturer; Applicant will not accept proposals of used, remanufactured, refurbished, "B stock," returns, open-box, discontinued, "gray market," or equipment in any other condition other than new and factory-sealed with all original manufacturer warranties.

Installation of the network switching equipment is not required.

The Applicant understands that eligible Basic Maintenance of Internal Connections items and/or Managed Internal Broadband Services are also sometimes necessary to provide a fully functional network and expects bidders to propose those services as necessary.

Proposals should include, as an option, separate pricing for 8 hours of onsite professional training that is manufacturer-specific basic instruction on the use of eligible equipment for the equipment bid in Appendix A and B. The training should be directly related to equipment installation and operation, and part of the contract or agreement for the equipment being proposed. Applicant reserves the right to eliminate training based on the equipment makes and models selected.

OPTION 2: UNINTERRUPTIBLE POWER SUPPLY EQUIPMENT

The Applicant seeks eligible uninterruptible power supply equipment as outlined in Appendix B. There will be one (1) UPS system installed in each of ten (10) MDF/IDF closets. Bidders should determine the size of each UPS based on the equipment needs identified during the mandatory site visit.

Equipment shall be new, factory-sealed equipment currently available from the manufacturer; the Applicant will not accept proposals of used, remanufactured, refurbished, "B stock," returns, open-box, discontinued, "gray market," or equipment in any other condition other than new and factory-sealed with all original manufacturer warranties.

Installation of the uninterruptible power supply equipment is not required.

The Applicant understands that eligible Basic Maintenance of Internal Connections items and/or Managed Internal Broadband Services are also sometimes necessary to provide a fully functional network and expects bidders to propose those services as necessary.

Proposals should include, as an option, separate pricing for 8 hours of onsite professional training that is manufacturer-specific basic instruction on the use of eligible equipment for the equipment bid in Appendix A and B. The training should be directly related to equipment installation and operation, and part of the contract or agreement for the equipment being proposed. Applicant reserves the right to eliminate training based on the equipment makes and models selected.

QUESTIONS/SITE VISITS

A mandatory site visit will be held at Madison Junior High School located at 701 8th Street, Madison, IN 47250 at 10:00 A.M. on Wednesday, January 3, 2024. This will be the only opportunity to ask questions or to receive answers to questions related to this RFP. Respondents choosing not to attend in so doing acknowledge their understanding that they were offered and voluntarily declined the opportunity.

SHIPPING AND HANDLING INFORMATION

All equipment will be shipped to Madison Junior High School, 701 8th Street, Madison, IN 47250. This location has a loading dock.

RESPONSE FORMAT

Responses should include the following, if applicable:

- Applicable items should include all related software and hardware components that enable the functionality of the equipment (including any necessary mounting brackets, software licenses, multi-year licenses, and basic maintenance).
- If applicable, the vendor is to specify all fees, shipping charges, taxes, surcharges, and contingency fees for eligible equipment.
- If applicable, the vendor is to specify the manufacturer's warranty provided as an integral part of an eligible component without separately identifiable cost.
- Any ongoing subscription pricing must be listed separately.

Your response must include the following information:

1. Line-item pricing for each item listed in Appendices A and B. Any discounting applied to your proposal must be reflected at the line-item level. This information must be provided in electronic spreadsheet form.
2. In the case of proposed equivalent products, a thorough technical description of how each product from the manufacturer being bid meets each of the required functionalities of the product listed below.
3. Information outlining your company's certifications and connections regarding the manufacturer's equipment being bid, and the length of time your company has provided equipment from the manufacturer being bid.
4. Two (2) reference sites where your company has performed a similar installation of the equipment being bid, including business name, contact name, and contact information. It is preferable that at least one reference should be for a school corporation or library system within 90 miles of Applicant.
5. Your E-Rate SPIN Number. (You must have a current SPAC form on file with USAC.)
6. A ready-to-execute contract which includes the proposal requirements and the E-Rate contingencies outlined herein.

Each bid must be accompanied by a bid bond or check equal to ten (10) percent of the total amount of the bid.

The Applicant's review of information will be primarily focused on the substance of the details provided in response to the requirements herein including but not limited to technical details, pricing and terms, experience, references, and adherence to the response format provided. Line-item pricing must be provided for each item listed in the bid (any discounting in pricing on the bid must be reflected at the line-item level).

PROPOSAL DELIVERY

Notice is hereby given that the Board of School Trustees of Madison Consolidated Schools will receive sealed bids at the Madison Consolidated Schools Administration Building, 2421 Wilson, Ave., Madison, IN 47250 until 2:00 P.M. Eastern on February 5, 2024, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Envelopes containing bids shall be plainly marked as follows:

"Bid Opening, February 5, 2024, 2:00 p.m. Eastern Time"
"Network Equipment and Data Protection Equipment"
"FCC Form 470 # 240006782"
and the name of the bidder.

Bids received after the designated time will be returned unopened.

Bids shall include a fully executed Indiana State Board of Accounts "Contractor's Bid for Public Work - Form 96 (revised 2013)," with a financial statement complying with Section III of Form 96, and a satisfactory Bid Bond or certified check pursuant to I.C. 36-1-9-36, payable to Madison Consolidated School Corporation. Bid Security shall be in the amount of not less than ten (10) percent of the total bid price. Should a successful Bidder withdraw their Bid or otherwise fail to execute a satisfactory Contract the Owner may then declare the Bid security forfeited as liquidated damages. "Contractor's Bid for Public Work - Form 96 (revised 2013)" is available at https://forms.in.gov/Download.aspx?id=6422

Bidders must submit a hard copy of their bid and any required forms, AND an electronic version of the bid response (including any required forms) on a USB flash drive in a sealed envelope, with their firm's name and address, clearly indicated on the envelope. Note that FAXED and EMAILED bids are not acceptable and will be rejected as non-responsive. Bids are to be addressed as follows: Madison Consolidated Schools Administration Building, Madison Consolidated Schools Administration Building, 2421 Wilson, Ave., Madison, IN 47250, ATTN: Josh Taylor.

The Madison Consolidated Schools Board of School Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids, and to waive informalities, irregularities, and errors in the bidding to the extent permitted by law. This includes the right to extend the date and time for receipt of bids. In the event that a responsible bid is not received or if it is determined that the low bid received is too high, the bids received will be rejected and the project will be canceled or rebid. Bids may not be withdrawn during the sixty (60) day period immediately following the date of receipt of the bids without the consent of Madison Consolidated Schools.

APPENDIX A – WIRELESS NETWORK EQUIPMENT

Below is a reference of the type of equipment and capacities (or their equivalent) to be supplied. Bidders should price separately and clearly indicate any ineligible costs for all services and equipment associated with this RFP. For any part numbers that have been updated or replaced by the manufacturer, bidders should offer the most similar current part.

All equipment should come with a minimum of a three (3) year warranty - limited lifetime warranties are preferred. Please provide information detailing warranty for all proposed hardware, including options for extended hardware/software support for a period of three (3) and five (5) years. If applicable, please provide the necessary support agreements required to maintain equipment with updated software and features for a period of five (5) years after installation.

Make	Model	Description	Quantity
Meraki	MR57s HW	Cisco Meraki MR57 - wireless access point - Wi-Fi 6E - cloud-managed or equivalent	275
Meraki	MR86s HW	Cisco Meraki MR86 - wireless access point - Wi-Fi 6E - cloud-managed or equivalent	6
Meraki	LIC-ENT-10YR	Cisco Meraki Enterprise License	281

APPENDIX B – Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) Equipment Specification

Below is a reference of the types of uninterruptible power supply equipment and capacities (or their equivalent) to be supplied. Bidders should price separately and clearly indicate any ineligible costs for all services and equipment associated with this RFP.

The uninterruptible power supply equipment will be utilized in district managed network closets and provide uninterruptible power to eligible equipment.

All equipment should come with a minimum of a three (3) year warranty. Limited lifetime warranties are preferred. Please provide information detailing warranty for all proposed hardware, including options for extended hardware/software support for a period of three (3) and five (5) years

The uninterruptible power supply equipment must be able to supply power to the load indicated below for 60 minutes. In addition, all equipment must meet the following requirements for functionality:

Uninterruptible Power Supply Equipment Specifications

Proposed uninterrupted power supply (UPS) equipment must meet the following specifications:

- Preference will be given to units utilizing Lithium-ion battery technology
- Operate in an online double-conversion mode with the ability to bypass to line-interactive mode
- Proposed units should be single-phase units
- Proposed units should have a NEMA 5-20 plug for power
- Proposed units should accept an input voltage of 120V AC, unless otherwise specified
- Proposed units should operate in a tower / rack configuration as determined during pre-bid meeting
- Possess a digital display capable of providing information about the operation of the uninterruptible power supply equipment
- Proposed units should feature a network-based management module with SNMP protocol support
- Proposed units should feature field replaceable battery units
- Proposed units should support expansion through the installation of an external battery module (EBM)

Equipment that meets the above specifications will be considered. hspaxlp

Legalized sports betting continued to grow in 2023

BY MARK ANDERSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LAS VEGAS — Legalized sports betting continued its expansion this year while also factoring into scandals in college athletics and suspensions in the NFL for players who violated the league's gambling policy.

Six states either passed legislation to legalize sports wagering or allowed sportsbooks to begin accepting bets. Another state, Florida, relaunched sports betting after a two-year legal battle ended when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in October in the casinos' favor.

Still on the sidelines, however, are the nation's two most populous states — California and Texas. Sports betting proponents will hope to make progress against significant headwinds in both states in 2024.

There was no apparent movement in California this year to legalize sports betting after two competing measures, including one backed financially by Native American tribes, went down in flames in 2022 at the ballot box.

Baird Fogel, a California attorney who works with the sports betting industry, said the key is getting the full support of the tribes.

"Remember, the tribes don't need this," Fogel said. "They can wait forever. That's the trick here, what everybody needs to get their heads around. You've got to proactively come to them with an idea of how to get their support because without their support, this is going nowhere."

He said the tribes could be receptive if approached correctly. Connecticut and New Jersey reached deals, Fogel said, because those states made agreements with the tribal casinos.

Some kind of revenue split, Fogel said, could get a similar deal done in California.

"It's got to happen," Fogel said. "The tax revenue alone is insane. Any casino is already generating nearly $9 billion a year in California alone. I can't even imagine what that number would balloon to if you were able to do this from the comfort of your own home on a mobile device."

In Texas, any push for casino gambling is a matter of playing a potentially years-long game.

Proponents have poured millions into political action committees and campaign donations. Casino magnate Miriam Adelson, who in November entered into an agreement to buy the NBA's Dallas Mavericks, donated $1 million to Republican Gov. Greg Abbott's 2022 campaign.

Gaming measures have slowly picked up support, but a spending wave has yet to deliver a Texas-sized jackpot in a Legislature where resistance to legalizing casinos still runs deep. The Texas Republican Party passed a resolution that showed renewed opposition to casino gambling among party activists.

Still on the sidelines, however, are the nation's two most populous states — California and Texas. Sports betting proponents will hope to make progress against significant headwinds in both states in 2024.

There has been no bigger obstacle than Republican Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, who controls the state Senate and wields enormous influence over what bills even come up for a vote. A gambling measure that would have allowed mobile sports betting passed the House last spring but never even got a vote in the Senate.

"The Republican electorate controls Texas," longtime Republican consultant Bill Miller said. "I don't think right now they are enamored of casino gaming. It's daunting task to turn that around."

Texas lawmakers do not meet again in regular session until 2025 and Patrick may run for re-election in 2026.

"Over time, gaming is going to come to Texas in all versions. Casinos will be the last version," Miller said. "You have to have patience and you have to have money. You have to have the financial standing to stay in the game."

There are signals that Adelson-led Las Vegas Sands is willing to dig in and wait. Dallas-area media report property records indicate that the casino company purchased around 100 acres of land near the old Texas Stadium site in Irving.

Georgia and Missouri are other states to watch in 2024. A bill could be reintroduced in Georgia, where two other measures already have failed. A bill that passed in the Missouri House this year didn't get out of the Senate, but it could be resurrected.

Sports betting for decades faced massive opposition from the NCAA and professional leagues because of a concern about potential point shaving that could call into question the legitimacy of games and matches. But with sports betting now widely accepted and even promoted, those in positions of power at the college and pro levels are having to adapt even as negative headlines emerge.

More than 40 Iowa and Iowa State athletes were implicated in a sports-betting investigation, and nine athletes pled guilty to underage gambling.

Alabama baseball coach Brad Bohannon was fired after suspicious betting tied to a Crimson Tide game occurred at a Cincinnati sportsbook.

The NFL has also suspended multiple players this year for violating the league's sports-betting policy.

Sports betting supporters have long argued that making wagering legal makes it easier to track down improprieties, such as unusual changes in betting lines. Betting done off the books, they say, is nearly impossible to monitor.

"Gambling is still going on in these states, whether or not it's lawful," Fogel said. "What that means is it's going on in an unregulated manner. It's going untaxed. There's no integrity program in place where there can be safeguards and regulations. Betting is occurring. I'm not saying that's the reason to pass legislation, but it is a reason."

Whether more states find that a compelling reason, including in California and Texas, to legalize sports betting is something to watch in 2024.

Morant has 'perfect ending' to 'perfect day'

BY BRETT MARTEL
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW ORLEANS — Memphis Grizzlies star Ja Morant described his game-winning shot at the end of a 34-point performance against the New Orleans Pelicans as "the perfect ending" to a "perfect day."

His 25-game suspension stemming from his social media antics with handguns ended Tuesday, and a new chapter of his already spectacular basketball career began in historic fashion.

Never in NBA history had a player returned from an absence as long as 25 games and scored as many points.

Never mind the fact that Morant led Memphis back from a 24-point deficit to a 115-113 victory on the road against a New Orleans Pelicans squad that had won its four previous games and had the likes of Brandon Ingram and Zion Williamson on the court.

Fans in New Orleans didn't offer Morant the friendliest welcome back, booing him during pregame introductions and again as he dribbled the ball on the game's opening possession.

"There's a lot of people that don't like me; you see where that got 'em," Morant said with a slight grin. "I don't know what I did to the Pelicans or their fans, but hey, they got to root for their team. So, it's all good."

Many of those fans would leave the arena in stunned silence while Morant celebrated his winning basket with teammates, who looked infused with confidence and belief as Morant took over.

"It felt different out there, having our guy back, our leader," Grizzlies guard Desmond Bane said. "He does so much for us on the court, of course, and the spirit and the energy he plays with is infectious."

The Grizzlies went 6-19 in the games Morant missed. They'll need to make up ground quickly to get back into the NBA's postseason picture. Time will tell if Morant's return marked the start of such a run, but it looks more promising now.

"We've been down all season in games like that; we'll make a run and then a team will throw another punch and it's tough to overcome and come back," Bane said. "Our resiliency was on display tonight."

Morant said he still has work to do to get into game shape, noting that he felt like his calves starting to cramp in the final minutes.

He even had his calves treated with a hand-held massage machine during the game's final timeout while coach Taylor Jenkins drew up the winning play for Morant. And he asked if Jaren Jackson Jr. should get the last shot of regulation — an idea that was summarily rejected by his teammates and coaches, who insisted that Morant get the ball.

"So, at that point, I pretty much had to lock in and go deliver," Morant said.

Jenkins inserted Morant back in the starting lineup and said he would try to be mindful of how many minutes he plays in his first few games back. But with a chance to win, he left Morant in for 35 minutes.

"My one expectation was for him to have fun, honestly," Jenkins said. "I know the work that he's been putting in. His teammates know the work he's been putting in.

"I thought he did a phenomenal job," Jenkins added. "Just with the pace and the ball movement and obviously the high level-plays, finishes."

Congratulations after the game came in person from Heisman Trophy winning LSU quarterback Jayden Daniels, who had courtside seats, and on social media from Los Angeles Lakers superstar LeBron James and Golden State Warriors forward Draymond Green, among others.

Under the terms of his suspension, Morant could practice and travel with the Grizzlies, but was not permitted to be in an arena with his team during games.

Jenkins said Morant increasingly has been involved in practices during the past couple weeks and has been video-chatting with teammates during games.

"I've been really proud of his commitment every single day with the amount of work that he's been putting in because it's been a unique two-and-a-half months where he got to really dive into his overall just well-being on and off the floor."

Morant said he felt compelled to set an example for loved ones and teammates alike in how he responded to his suspension.

"I feel like in this world, a lot of us make mistakes. And I felt like the message they got from mine, regardless if you make a mistake, you have another chance to fix it and reinvent yourself," Morant said. "I felt like that's the good that happened during this process. I obviously don't wish it happened, but it definitely took me, my family, my team, to the next level."

The No. 2 pick overall in the 2019 draft, 2020 NBA Rookie of the Year and 2022 Most Improved Player has been suspended for a combined 33 games since he first was caught flashing a gun on a social media livestream on March 4.

Morant first told reporters after the Los Angeles Lakers ousted Memphis from the playoffs in April that he had to make better decisions, knowing off-the-court issues affected the Grizzlies' season. A team that earned a second straight No. 2 seed in the Western Conference lasted just six games in the postseason.

Only two weeks later, Morant was singing with friends when caught holding up a handgun during a livestream video. NBA Commissioner Adam Silver weighed the situation and announced the second suspension along with other steps for Morant to take.

That included talking weekly with the NBA office and the National Basketball Players Association.

LEGAL

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF JEFFERSON
SS:
IN THE JEFFERSON CIRCUIT COURT
CAUSE NUMBER:
39C01-2309-JC-000031
IN THE MATTER OF:
MC - DOB 6/17/2013
A CHILD ALLEGED TO BE A CHILD IN NEED OF SERVICES
AND
KATHRYN IPOCK AKA CAIN (MOTHER)

SUMMONS FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION & NOTICE OF CHILD IN NEED OF SERVICES HEARING

TO: Kathryn Ipock aka Cain
Whereabouts unknown

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the above noted parent whose whereabouts are unknown, that the Indiana Department of Child Services has filed its Verified Petition Alleging the child to be in Need of Services, in accordance with I.C. 31-34-9-3, and that an adjudication hearing has been scheduled with the Court.

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear before the Judge of the Jefferson Circuit Court, 300 East Main Street, Madison, IN 47250-3537 - 812-265-8930 for a(n) Initial/Fact Finding Hearing on 2/1/2024 at 2:00 PM.

At said hearing, the Court will consider the Petition and evidence thereon and will render its decision as to whether the above named minor child is child in need of services and shall enter adjudication accordingly. Your failure to appear after lawful notice will be deemed as your default and waiver to be present at said hearing.

UPON ENTRY OF SAID ADJUDICATION, A DISPOSITIONAL HEARING will be held in which the Court will consider (1) Alternatives for the care, treatment, or rehabilitation for the child; (2) The necessity, nature, and extent of your participation in the program of care, treatment, or rehabilitation for the child; and (3) Your financial responsibility for any services provided for the parent, guardian or custodian of the child including child support.

YOU MUST RESPOND by appearing in person or by an attorney within thirty (30) days after the last publication of this notice, and in the event you fail to do so, an adjudication on said petition, judgment by default may be entered against you, or the court may proceed in your absence, without further notice.

12/1/2023
Tabatha Eblen
Clerk
Michelle Hicks, #22997-53
Attorney, Indiana Department of Child Services

hspaxlp

LEGAL

MDK # 23-026851
STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE JEFFERSON CIRCUIT COURT
) SS:
COUNTY OF JEFFERSON)
CAUSE NO. 39C01-2311-MF-000949
PNC Bank, National Association
Plaintiff,
vs.
James F. Shuck, AKA James Shuck, et al.
Defendants.

NOTICE OF SUIT SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

TO: The Unknown heirs devisees, legatees, beneficiaries of Jennifer Shuck AKA Jennifer Watson AKA Jennifer Zirkoe AKA Jennifer Rebecca Zirkle AKA Jennifer Rebecca Watson AKA J. Shuck, and their unknown creditors; and, the unknown executor, administrator, or personal representative of the estate of Jennifer Shuck AKA Jennifer Watson AKA Jennifer Zirkoe AKA Jennifer Rebecca Zirkle AKA Jennifer Rebecca Watson AKA J. Shuck:

BE IT KNOWN, that PNC Bank, National Association, the above-named Plaintiff, by its attorney, Nicholas M. Smith, has filed in the office of the Clerk of the Jefferson Circuit Court its Complaint against Defendant The Unknown heirs devisees, legatees, beneficiaries of Jennifer Shuck AKA Jennifer Watson AKA Jennifer Zirkoe AKA Jennifer Rebecca Zirkle AKA Jennifer Rebecca Watson AKA J. Shuck, and their unknown creditors; and, the unknown executor, administrator, or personal representative of the estate of Jennifer Shuck AKA Jennifer Watson AKA Jennifer Zirkoe AKA Jennifer Rebecca Zirkle AKA Jennifer Rebecca Watson AKA J. Shuck, and the said Plaintiff having also filed in said Clerk's office the affidavit of a competent person showing that the residence and whereabouts of the Defendant, The Unknown heirs devisees, legatees, beneficiaries of Jennifer Shuck AKA Jennifer Watson AKA Jennifer Zirkoe AKA Jennifer Rebecca Zirkle AKA Jennifer Rebecca Watson AKA J. Shuck, and their unknown creditors; and, the unknown executor, administrator, or personal representative of the estate of Jennifer Shuck AKA Jennifer Watson AKA Jennifer Zirkoe AKA Jennifer Rebecca Zirkle AKA Jennifer Rebecca Watson AKA J. Shuck, upon diligent inquiry is unknown, and that said cause of action is for default on the promissory note and to foreclose a mortgage on the following described real estate in Jefferson County, State of Indiana, to wit:

Lot No. Nine (9) in Beeler's Addition East to Kent, see Plat Book 1, Page 39, in the Recorder's Office of Jefferson County, Indiana.

commonly known as 7825 West Kent Sr 256, Madison, IN 47250.

NOW, THEREFORE, said Defendant is hereby notified of the filing and pendency of said Complaint against them and that unless they appear and answer or otherwise defend thereto within thirty (30) days after the last notice of this action is published, judgment by default may be entered against said Defendant for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

Dated Clerk, Jefferson Circuit Court
Nicholas M. Smith (31800-15)
Stephanie A. Reinhart (25071-06)
J. Dustin Smith (29493-06)
Chris Wiley (26936-10)
Attorneys for Plaintiff
MANLEY DEAS KOCHALSKI LLC
P.O. Box 165028
Columbus OH 43216-5028
Telephone: 614-220-5611
Facsimile: 614-220-5613
Email: sef-nms@manleydeas.com
hspaxlp

FLIP

FROM PAGE B6

his signed NLI was officially in hand and it turned out he was right to be so. Almost 10 hours later, Ohio State announced Smith had signed.

Georgia might have locked up the top spot at the expense of Florida State. KJ Bolden, a defensive back from Buford High School near Atlanta, decided to stay home and join the Bulldogs after being a verbal commitment to the Seminoles since August.

"I reached out to him when he committed elsewhere," Georgia coach Kirby Smart said. "I told him we had a lot of respect for him, and we weren't going to stop recruiting him, that we thought this was the best place for him."

According to 247 Sports' composite rankings, which provide a consensus of the major online recruiting ratings, Smart will have the No. 1 class for the third time since 2018. It was some good news for the Bulldogs, who missed out on a shot at a third straight national title after losing to Alabama in the Southeastern Conference championship game.

Florida State lost another five-star when defensive linemen Armondo Blount signed with Miami. Blount had originally committed to Miami and flipped to FSU before switching it up again on signing day.

Rival Florida was also working on a possible top-five class, but coming off a 5-7 season coach Billy Napier couldn't keep the group together.

Five-star cornerback Xavier Filsaime from Texas flipped to the Longhorns earlier this week and then the Gators lost four-star defensive linemen Adarius Hayes (to Miami) and Amaris Williams (to Auburn) and four-star receiver Izaiah Williams (to Texas A&M).

"It's a battle. There's no doubt about it," Napier told reporters. "We got some young men who were up for the challenge. Some were not up for the challenge."

The Gators did sign blue-chip quarterback DJ Lagway of Texas and defensive lineman LJ McCray from Florida.

There was nothing but reasons to smile on signing day at Nebraska, which started the day by announcing it had received Raiola's sign NLI. A consensus top-10 recruit and the son of former Cornhuskers standout Dominic Raiola, Dylan was first verbally committed to Ohio State and then Georgia. His family even moved to the Atlanta suburbs for his final high school season.

Now Raiola will be part of a top-20 signing class under coach Matt Rhule that Nebraska fans hope can finally revive the once-great program. The Cornhuskers claim five national titles, but have not even played in a bowl game since 2016.

There has been lots of speculation about how much players being allowed to be paid for their celebrity endorsements influences recruiting. The usual suspects continue to rack up the best classes — though maybe some of the top talent is spreading a little thinner.

"Maybe there's some merit to that but I don't know that," Rhule said. "End of the day, a player can walk into my office and say I just got offered this amount of money. And trust me, players have. No one knows what's real and not real."

BASKETBALL

FROM PAGE B1

Sater and Brice Gilman scored 10 points each.

Hanover, now 8-3 on the season, returns to action on Jan. 3 when the Panthers travel to Anderson.

LADY RAIDERS DROP OPENER

Trimble County girls basketball lost 58-39 to Silverdale Academy (Tenn.) in the opening game of the Smoky Mountain Christmas Classic in Gatlingburg, Tennessee, on Wednesday.

Addison Edmondson scored 13 points to lead the Raiders and Ainslie Stark had seven points.

Carroll County played Kentucky opponent Middlesboro (3-4) in the same tournament on Wednesday with the Panthers falling 59-57 for their fifth straight loss.

Both Trimble County (5-2) and Carroll County continue in the tournament through Friday with the Raiders playing a team to be decided Thursday and Carroll (1-5) playing Cascade of Wartrace), Tenn. Thursday.

PACERS FALL TO NEW WASH

Switzerland County suffered a 47-39 loss at home to New Washington in girls basketball on Tuesday.

Halle Archer had 12 points, five rebounds and three steals to lead the Pacers while Bri Stow had 11 points and five rebounds.

Kaidin James had 29 points to lead New Washington.

Switzerland, now 8-6 on the season, will next compete in the Pam Browning Classic at Carroll County starting on Thursday, Dec. 28. The Pacers will face Walton-Verona in the opening game.

RAIDERS FALL TO ANDERSON

Trimble County suffered a 50-36 loss at home to Anderson County on Tuesday in boys basketball.

Ethan Horn had 12 points to lead the Raiders and Ethan Keller scored eight.

Trimble, now 2-6 on the season, competes in the Jefferson County Invitational Tournament at Madison starting on Friday. The Raiders will face host Madison on the opening night at 8:30 p.m.

COURIERAREA SPORTS SHORTS

BY THE COURIER STAFF

• Several local athletes were recently recognized by the Ohio River Valley Conference for achievement.

Switzerland County's Courtney Higgins was named girls basketball player of the week. Higgins had 32 points, seven assists and six deflections in two games.

Shawe's Matthew Vaughn was named boys swimmer of the week on the strength of four wins last week.

Southwestern sisters Raygan Crawford and Natalee Crawford shared the award in girls swimming with a total of six wins last week.

• Switzerland County junior varsity girls basketball remained unbeaten on the season with a 31-24 win over Lawrenceburg at home on Tuesday.

Kaitlynn Stucker scored 11 points for the Pacers and Addie Kelso added six.

Switzerland, now 12-0 on the season, travels to Southwestern on Jan. 11.

PURDUE

FROM PAGE B1

rankings for the first time this season.

As for Ole Miss, the Rebels (10-0) are off to their best start since opening at 13-0 in 2007-08. The program, in its first season under Chris Beard, is ranked for the first time since January 2019.

Miami (No. 24) and Northwestern (No. 25) fell out from last week.

CONFERENCE WATCH

The Big 12 led all conferences with six ranked teams, including No. 17 BYU. The Atlantic Coast Conference was next with four teams, followed by three each for the Big East, Big Ten and Southeastern conferences.

The American Athletic Conference had two ranked teams, while the Pac-12, West Coast, Mountain West and Sun Belt conferences each had one.

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